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March 13, 2026

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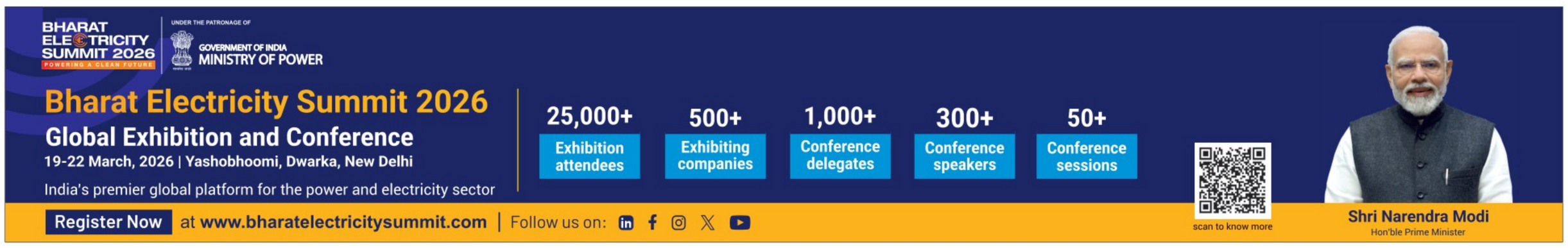
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Retail inflation rises to 3.2% in February

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Crude supply secure, no shortage of fuel: Minister

Amid West Asia crisis, foremost priority is to provide cooking gas to households, says Petroleum Minister Puri in LS; 20% of average monthly commercial requirement to be allocated by oil firms

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

There is no shortage of petrol, diesel, kerosene, and aviation turbine fuel in the country, Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri informed the Lok Sabha on Thursday, adding that India's crude oil supply has been secured amid the conflict in West Asia.

The Minister was responding to a notice submitted by Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on the shortage of liquid petroleum gas (LPG).

"This is not the moment for rumour-mongering or fake narratives. India is navigating the most severe global energy disruption in recorded history," Mr. Puri said. It is the "foremost priority" of the government that the kitchens of over 33 crore families, especially the "poor and the underprivileged, do not face any shortage" of gas, and domestic supply is fully protected, he said.

Customers wait at a fuel station in Chennai on Thursday as rumours of fuel shortage triggered massive panic-buying. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

The Centre has also introduced regulation of commercial LPG cylinders to prevent hoarding and diversion, the Minister said.

"In a major decision, 20% of the average monthly commercial LPG requirement will be allocated from today by OMCs [oil-marketing companies], in coordination with the State governments so that there is no hoarding or black-marketing," Mr. Puri said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

India co-sponsors UN resolution condemning Iran

NEW DELHI
India has co-sponsored a resolution at the United Nations Security Council that condemned actions by Iran aimed at interfering with navigation through the Strait of Hormuz. » PAGE 13

Modi discusses West Asia crisis with Pezeshkian

NEW DELHI
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday spoke to Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and expressed concern over the 'serious situation' in West Asia. » PAGE 13

New Supreme Leader of Iran vows to keep Strait of Hormuz shut

Stanly Johny

Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei

In his first public comments since becoming Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei on Thursday asked neighbouring Arab countries to shut U.S. bases "as soon as possible", demanded reparations for the material losses during the war, and vowed to keep the Strait of Hormuz "closed".

"We will exact reparations from the enemy, and if it refuses, we will seize from its assets as much as we deem necessary and if that too proves impossible, we will destroy an equivalent portion of its assets," Mr. Khamenei said.

Pledging to avenge "the blood of the martyrs", Mr. Khamenei said the "effective and regret-inducing defence" by Iranian forces would continue. "Furthermore, the leverage of blocking the Strait of Hormuz must certainly continue to be used," he said.

Earlier in the day, President Masoud Pezeshkian set three conditions for ending the war. "The only way to end this war – ignited by the Zionist regime and U.S. – is recognising Iran's legitimate rights, payment of reparations, and firm guarantees against future aggression," the President said.

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No shortage of domestic LPG; commercial cylinder supply issue to ease soon: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Food and Civil Supplies Minister K. H. Muniyappa on Thursday said that there was no shortage of domestic LPG cylinders in the State, and pointed out that the difficulties in the supply of commercial cylinders would be resolved within a week.

He said Iran had permitted gas supplies to India through the Strait of Hormuz, and two ships carrying LPG were on their way to Mumbai. The State currently had stocks sufficient for about 10 days, he added, promising that there would be no difficulty in supplying cylinders to households.

He urged the public not to panic or hoard cylinders. "Some people are booking and storing cylinders unnecessarily due to fear. The government will ensure supply to consumers in a lawful manner," he said. The Minister said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had written to the Centre seeking support to ensure smooth LPG supply.

Replying to a discussion on LPG shortage in the Legislative Council, the Minister said the situation had arisen due to disruptions in global supplies caused by the ongoing conflict.

Drawing on his experience as a former Union Minister, he said around 30% of India's LPG was produced domestically, while about 70% was imported. However, the LPG required for household consumption was largely produced within the country, and therefore there would be no shortage of cooking gas for domestic use, he said.

Meeting with oil firms

Mr. Muniyappa added that he would hold a meeting with officials of oil companies on Friday to discuss ways to address the shortage of commercial cylinders supplied to hotels and other establishments. After the meeting, the government would also hold consultations with representatives of the hotel industry and inform the House about the measures taken.

He said the government had prioritised LPG supply to hospitals and schools to ensure essential services were not affected. Steps would also be taken to ensure commercial cylinder supply for hotels and for functions in wedding halls, he added.

The Minister warned that strict action would be taken against black marketing of LPG cylinders.

Braving the storm

Holding ground: A worker inspects damaged wheat crops amid strong winds on the outskirts of Amritsar in Punjab on Thursday. PTI

NEARBY

'Adulteration found in 3,049 milk samples'

BENGALURU
Adulteration was detected in 3,049 milk samples from January 2025 to January this year, N.S. Boseraju told the Legislative Council. » PAGE 8

LPG shortage forces eateries to shut down

BENGALURU
Eateries continue to face a severe shortage of commercial LPG cylinders, forcing some to close temporarily. » PAGE 2

METROPLUS » PAGE 7

Committee on Responsible AI formed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Government of Karnataka has constituted a Committee on Responsible Artificial Intelligence (AI) to develop a comprehensive framework to guide the safe, ethical and transparent adoption of AI across government systems and public services.

The committee, chaired by Kris Gopalakrishnan, co-founder of Infosys, and co-chaired by N. Manjula, Secretary, Department of Electronics, IT, Biotechnology and Science & Technology, brings together leading experts from industry, academia, policy and law.

According to a government communique, the first meeting of the committee was held on Thursday (March 12, 2026) in Bengaluru, where members discussed the rapidly evolving AI landscape and the need to establish strong governance frameworks to ensure the responsible use of AI technologies, particularly in systems that impact citizens.

The committee would develop a Responsible AI Policy and implementation road map for Karnataka, aimed at enabling innovation while ensuring that AI systems deployed across government are safe, fair, transparent and accountable, it said.

Commenting on the initiative, Priyank Kharge, Minister for Electronics, IT, Biotechnology and Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, said, "As Karnataka enters its Deeptech Decade, the State is focused not only on accelerating AI innovation but also on ensuring that these technologies are deployed responsibly and in the public interest."

The Responsible AI Committee brought together leading experts from industry, academia and policy to help shape a governance framework that promotes innovation while safeguarding transparency, accountability and citizen trust, said Mr. Kharge, adding, this initiative would help the State to continue to lead in building an AI ecosystem that is both cutting-edge and responsible.

AI for growth

"Artificial Intelligence is a highly disruptive technology, and we are already seeing its potential to significantly accelerate the growth of Karnataka's economy. If we are able to leverage this opportunity effectively, Karnataka can become the first in the country to develop a comprehensive framework for responsible AI—one that drives better citizen services, creates the jobs of the 21st century, and strengthens our innovation ecosystem," said Mr. Gopalakrishnan, chairperson, Committee on Responsible Artificial Intelligence.

By harnessing AI thoughtfully and responsibly, Karnataka would be able to significantly accelerate the growth of its economy, he further said.

Some of the topics which came under discussion at the maiden meeting of the Responsible AI Committee included establishing responsible AI principles and policy guidelines for the State, aligned with India's AI governance guidelines and global best practices, including legality, fairness, non-discrimination, privacy, safety, security, transparency, accountability, human oversight, inclusion and national interest.

Panel likely to be set up to check vegetable contamination in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In the light of the Central Pollution Control Board report flagging severe contamination of vegetables supplied to Bengaluru, an inter-departmental committee is likely to be set up to decide on best practices, even as Forest and Ecology Minister Eshwar Khandre said that a meeting of legislators from Bengaluru will be convened shortly to discuss the issue.

The announcement came after BJP members raised the issue of severe contamination, especially of lead in the vegetables supplied from Kolar and Chickballapur districts in the Legislative Assembly. The CPCB submitted a reported to National Green Tribunal recently.

Acknowledging the need for inter-departmental committee, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge said that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah could convene a meeting of Ministers of Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry, among others. "Veterinary drugs, plastic, chemical migration from food contact materials and chemical agents are adding to the contamination," he added.

Forest and Ecology Minister Eshwar Khandre came down heavily on the functioning of Sewage Treatment Plants, and said that the STPs were not working well.

"Currently the capacity of the STPs is 1,200 MLD, while the capacity needed for the population of 1.4 crore population in Bengaluru is 1,800 MLD. Water bodies such as Thippegondahalli and Belladur tanks are contaminated. E-waste is being dumped and construction wastes dumping is generating dust." A meeting of legislators from Bengaluru would be convened shortly to take stock of the issue under the chairmanship of Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who is also in-charge of Bengaluru, he added.

Earlier, BJP member C.N. Ashwathnarayan pointed out that more than 11 alloys and heavy metals and residue of pesticides have been found in the vegetables that had been tested. "One in every second person in Bengaluru has fatty liver or suffers from degeneration of nervous system."

GETTY IMAGES

Bumrah — the pace king and the master of the slower one

It's impossible to imagine what it must be like to carry so many expectations every time he has the ball in his hand; to his credit, he has managed to distance himself from the 'outside noise', retain his focus and concentrate on what is in his control

R. Kaushik

Sixty-nine needed off five overs. Almost 14 an over. You'd back the bowling side nine out of ten times, especially considering that the opposition has lost five top batters, but this threatened to be the one-out-of-ten instance. Thanks to a 22-year-old who was playing the innings of his life, an innings that should serve as the springboard to greater things.

It was the second semifinal of the T20 World Cup, India against England. Or, more like, India against Jacob Bethell.

A spectacular batting display with the rejuvenated Sanju Samson leading the way had catapulted the home side to a mammoth 253 for seven, the second time in as many innings batting first that India had topped 250. Just once had a team scored more runs to win a T20I, when South Africa got the 259 needed to overcome West Indies in 2023.

Slice of magic

But Bethell was threatening to rain on India's parade, to ruin the Indian party. The left-hander entered the fray at 38 for two after 4.1 overs, following the dismissal of Jos Buttler to two slices of Indian magic. Jasprit Bumrah, the protagonist of this piece, bowled a fabulous slower ball first up, one that completely did for Harry Brook, the England captain. Reaching out to drive, Brook found that the ball came much, much slower than he anticipated; all he did was slice it in the air, the bottom hand coming off the bat.

As the ball looped towards deep cover, Axar Patel whirled around from inside the circle, ran in pursuit of the aerial orb, his eyes trained unblinkingly on the ball coming over his shoulder. A stretch, a fall with the ball nestled firmly in his big hands, Axar had completed one of the catches of the tournament. The Wankhede Stadium erupted in delight, India heaved a sigh of relief because Brook is the kind of player that can single-handedly influence the outcome of a contest, like he had done a week or so previously against Pakistan in Sri Lanka.

Bethell came in with a clear game plan - take the fight to the bowlers, not allow them to settle down. He backed away to his second ball from Bumrah, who followed him, targeting his pads. The left-hander was up to the task, swinging the ball to long-leg for six. A glorious shot, if ever there was one. Then came a stunning assault against Varun Chakaravarthy, then the No. 1 T20I bowler in the world. A pull over long-on, a drive over long-off, a reverse swat over deep-point - three balls, three sixes, the Chakaravarthy threat dismantled.

By now, Bethell was flying. His first 13 deliveries brought him fives sixes and a four - he was 39 off 14 and continuing to tee off, making the Wankhede looking singularly tiny. With Will Jacks and then Sam Curran, he drove daggers of dread into Indian supporters; hardly an over went by when a boundary wasn't struck and by the start of the final chunk of five overs, every mouth was dry, every set of lips had a prayer, every heart was thudding. The game was slipping away.

Like Rohit Sharma had done in the 2024 final when, again, the game was slipping away, Suryakumar Yadav brought back his bank. The one bowler in the world capable of putting a brake on the scoring. India needed control; ideally a wicket, that of Bethell's, but control would do, too. In 2024, with South Africa requiring 30 off 30, Rohit turned to Bumrah, who produced a spell of 2-0-6-1, breaking the momentum and setting up a seven-run win. Normally, Rohit would have used Bumrah in overs 17 and 19 but he was compelled to employ him at 16 and 18 because otherwise, it would have been too late. Suryakumar, cut from the Rohit cloth and unabashedly using Rohit as his role model, did likewise, not in hope but in conviction.

Extraordinary stuff

Bumrah didn't disappoint. He doesn't, you know. Curran whipped a rare full ball on his pads through square-leg for four in the 16th over, but it was Bumrah's sole indiscretion in 12 high-pressure balls, with the stakes so high and the game literally in his hands. Other than that, Bumrah conceded 10 in 11 deliveries. By the time he was done for the night, having nailed a succession of yorkers in his final over, Bumrah had extraordinary figures of 4-0-33-1. And taken the equation to 39 off 12 balls. England fell seven short, another eerie coincidence to the 2024 final when South Africa too went down by seven runs. The common thread - Bumrah, with support from Arshdeep Singh and Hardik Pandya.

After the last ball of his evening went to the deep field on the on-side for a single, Bumrah stood in his followthrough. Crouched. His hands on his knees. Spent, drained, knackered. Under pressure, oh, under extraordinary pressure, he had again come up trumps. 8.25 runs an over in a game that produced 499 runs in 40 overs. Tilting the advantage decisively India's way, when Bethell was on the cusp of producing the most special effort of the tournament, if not of World Cup history. Some men aren't measured by wickets, some efforts aren't judged by how impressive the 'W' column is. This was one of those.

But, as we have said numerous times, cricket is a numbers game. Economy is fine, but where are the wickets? What is your strike-rate? These are inevitable questions from those statistically minded, and who see the world in black and white, ignoring the grey shades that make it interesting, compelling, gripping. For them too, Bumrah had an answer, three nights later at what once was India's theatre of nightmares but which they have since transformed to a stage of dreams realised, of a mission accomplished.

Like against England, India again put on a batting display so commanding in the final at the Narendra Modi Stadium that you wondered how this line-up hadn't done more in the group stages. Once more, Samson was the leader, but there was fabulous hands from Abhishek Sharma, until then unrecognisable as the all-conquering force of the previous year, and Ishan Kishan, making the most of his second coming.

This time too, India powered past 250, ending on 255 for five when they ran out of time. Would New Zealand do an England? Who would be their Bethell? Would it be Finn Allen, who smacked a 33-ball century in the semifinal drubbing of South Africa? Or Tim Seifert, the other right-hander who, alongside Allen, had realised 463 runs, the most by an opening pair in any World Cup?

Axar settled Indian nerves by having Allen caught at long-on in the third over, the cue for Bumrah to mark his walk/run-up. In the previous over from the same end, Pandya had been clubbed for 21; now, the onus was on Bumrah to build on the gains accrued from Axar's strike.

Clueless Rachin

Like against England, Bumrah produced a devilish off-pace ball. With many bowlers - make that most - there is some indication of what is to come. A drop of the front shoulder, a last-minute adjustment of the seam position, something, anything. With Bumrah, there are no cues. No perceptible changes. No hint of what the ball leaving his hyperextended right arm is likely to do.

Rachin Ravindra was as clueless as Brook had been; the left-hander was lulled into playing the flick early and in the air. A full-pace ball might have soared over deep backward square, but this one had more elevation than distance. Unlike Axar who ran back, Kishan ran in, focused and committed, tumbled forward, saw the ball bob out of his hands and was still alert and calm enough to grab it the second try. First strike to Bumrah.

By the time Bumrah came back on for his second spell (his first read 2-0-9-1), the game was done and dusted. New Zealand were 139 for six after 15, needing 117 in 30 deliveries. Impossible at the best of times. With Bumrah around, hmmm...

Until that point, Bumrah had 11 wickets for the tournament. Impressive, but there were so many ahead of him - Varun (14). A trio with 13 each. Another pair with 12 apiece. And five more who also had 11. Maybe Bumrah didn't know, maybe he didn't care. But he felt the need for one signature performance, one final stamp of authority, and when Bumrah feels the need, you know what happens.

Lighting things up

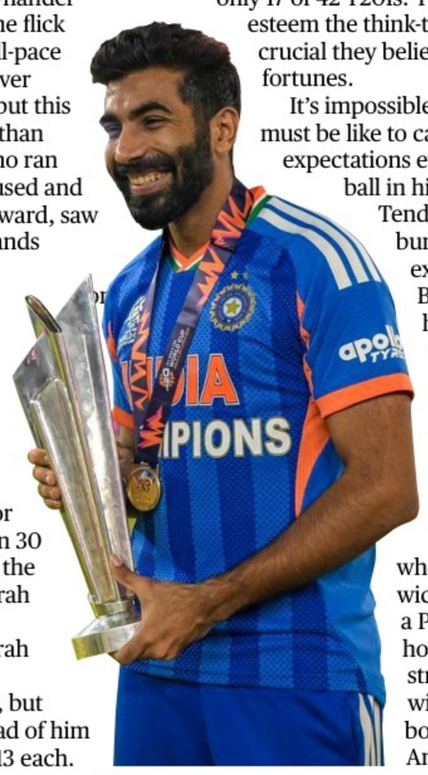
Three slower deliveries, three wickets in seven balls, three times the stumps and bails lighting up. For the first time in his career, Bumrah had a T20I four-wicket haul. Maybe he himself was surprised at being named the Player of the Match - which should have been his by right in the semis - but he wasn't complaining now, was he?

For those who love quantifying things, Bumrah's World Cup read thus: eight matches, 168 balls (28 overs), 174 runs conceded. A joint tournament-high 14 wickets, economy 6.21, strike-rate 12 (two overs per wicket). Among the dozen bowlers with more than 10 wickets, only Shadley van Schalkwyk, the American who finished with 13 sticks, boasted an economy of under 7 (6.80), but he also conceded more than half a run an over compared to Bumrah.

Van Schalkwyk bowled on reasonably bowler-friendly strips; Bumrah's last four matches were on wonderful batting surfaces, where he took seven for 105 from 16 overs. As the tournament progressed, Bumrah got better and better, the sequence beginning in India's first Super Eight loss to South Africa. The Proteas posted 187 for seven, Bumrah finished with a surreal three for 15. Madness.

India used Bumrah judiciously between the two T20 World Cups. He didn't figure in a single ODI and played only 17 of 42 T20Is. That shows in what esteem the think-tank holds him, how crucial they believe he is to the team's fortunes.

It's impossible to imagine what it must be like to carry so many expectations every time he has the ball in his hand; only Sachin Tendulkar has been burdened with crazier expectations. To Bumrah's credit, he has managed to distance himself from the 'outside noise', retain his focus and concentrate on what is in his control. That's not a bad philosophy when it brings you 14 wickets in eight outings, a Player-of-the-Final honour and a second straight World Cup winner's medal. Take a bow, Jasprit Bumrah. And keep at it.



THE GIST

- Like Rohit had done in the 2024 final when, again, the game was slipping away, Suryakumar brought back his bank in the last-four clash against England. The one bowler in the world capable of putting a brake on the scoring
- Like against England, Bumrah produced a devilish off-pace ball (in the final). With many bowlers – make that most – there is some indication of what is to come. A drop of the front shoulder, a last-minute adjustment of the seam position, something, anything. With Bumrah, there are no cues
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J BG-BGE

As roadside eateries stare at closure, affordable food options for people shrink

Many such eateries, which provide food at reasonable rates to urban workers throughout the day, are staring at uncertainty, with the LPG crisis hitting them hard

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Customers who rely on such low-cost eateries, are scrambling to find new options. While some have turned to cooking at home, others are finding new avenues. K. MURALI KUMAR

Bablu, a migrant from Uttar Pradesh who runs a roadside eatery in central Bengaluru, appears nervous even as he serves hot sweet corn, sandwiches and chowmein to the few customers gathered around.

"I keep switching the gas supply on and off. Earlier, I used to leave it on always to keep the food items hot. But with the LPG crunch, I don't know what I will do if this cylinder gets over," he said, pointing to the 19-kg commercial cylinder near his cart.

Many of the roadside eateries like that of Bablu's, which provide affordable food to urban workers throughout the day, are staring at uncertain days with the LPG crisis hitting them hard.

Fear of price hike

Nagendra B., who opens his cart during lunch time to sell roti, rice and non-veg gravies, among other dishes, said he was contemplating to limit the menu to items that could be cooked at home and later brought to the food stall.

Madhav Kishan, another migrant worker from Uttar Pradesh, who runs a fast food stall, expressed concern over the potential price hikes.

"Domestic cylinders went up only by ₹60, whereas people like us have to now shell out an extra ₹150. With no sign to the war in West Asia, people are saying prices might go up again. What will people like us do?"

While a few eateries said they might be forced to consider domestic cylinders in the coming days, although illegal, if the situation continues, a few others who already use domestic cylinders for commercial cooking fear increased scrutiny in the coming days.

New avenues

Meanwhile, customers who rely on such low-cost eateries, are scrambling to find new options. While some have turned to cooking at home, others are finding new avenues.

Rohit Shetty, who regularly used to have lunch at a small eatery near his office, is now dependant on the *anna prasada* from a nearby temple.

"I reached the eatery as usual on March 10 only to realise that they are offering only coffee and tea due to the LPG shortage. So, my lunch was nothing but a few *chikkis* (snack made up of groundnuts and jaggery). From today, I have started going to the temple for the *prasada*," he said.

Somanna, an autorickshaw driver, who goes to the same eatery for lunch, said he ate a few samosas instead.

People fear about their monthly food expenses going up. "Depending on bigger restaurants will leave a big hole in my pocket. So, I will have to mix it up and cook on days when the workload is light," said Neha V.R., who works with a consultancy in Bengaluru.

Commercial LPG cylinder shortage forces many hotels, eateries across the city to halt operations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Hotels and eateries across Bengaluru continue to face a severe shortage of commercial LPG cylinders, forcing many establishments to reduce menu options and, in some cases, temporarily shut down operations as uncertainty over supply persists.

The crisis has also begun to affect the city's wedding catering industry, with several caterers halting new bookings and scaling down elaborate wedding menus.

Restaurant owners said they initially tried to manage the situation by limiting the number of dishes offered to customers. However, with supplies of commercial LPG remaining inconsistent, owners of many establishments said that it has become difficult to continue day-to-day operations.

"We first tried to cope with by cutting down our menu, but the situation has only worsened. We somehow managed to run the kitchen till Wednesday, but today we simply did not have enough LPG to cook. We do not know how long this uncertainty will continue, so we decided to shut down the establishment from Wednesday until the situation improves," said Ravindra Shetty, a restaurant owner from Arekere in south Bengaluru.

An eatery was shut down at Vijayanagar due to disruptions in commercial LPG supply in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

The crisis is also impacting wedding catering industry, which typically handles large-scale events with elaborate food spreads

Several restaurants across the city have adopted similar measures. Some eateries are operating with minimal menus, while others have temporarily closed their kitchens to avoid losses and operational disruptions. A restaurant owner from Koramangala said the shortage has created confusion and financial strain for small businesses that depend entirely on LPG for daily cooking. "Restaurants run on tight margins and we cannot function without a reliable fuel supply. With no clarity on when supplies will stabilise, some of us have chosen to pause operations rather than disappoint customers," said Ravi K., a hotel owner. The crisis is also impacting Bengaluru's wedding catering industry, which typically handles large-scale events with elaborate food spreads. Caterers said they have stopped accepting new wedding bookings for the coming weeks and even next month because they could not guarantee the scale of food preparation required for such events.

Manoj Kumar, a caterer from Jayanagar, said wedding menus usually consist of multiple dishes that require significant cooking time and fuel. "A typical wedding menu includes 15 to 20 items, preparing such elaborate meals requires continuous LPG supply. Since we do not have reliable access to commercial cylinders right now, we have decided not to take new wedding bookings until the situation improves." Even caterers who had already accepted bookings were being forced to modify their plans. Prasanna Bhat, another caterer from Jayanagar, said the shortage has compelled catering teams to reduce the number of dishes served at wedding functions.

"Wherever we already have confirmed bookings, we are cutting down on the number of items on the menu and reducing the live food counters. Live counters are very popular at weddings, but they require constant cooking. Because of the LPG shortage, we cannot run all the counters like we normally do," he added.

The uncertainty has also created anxiety among families preparing for weddings in the coming days. Priya K. Kumar, a resident of Whitefield, said the family of a friend who was getting married next week was recently approached by their catering team with an unusual request.

"The caterers told them they may have to arrange LPG cylinders themselves for the wedding event because supplies are not guaranteed. Wedding preparations are already stressful, and this request has put the bridegroom's family in a difficult position. There are several auspicious wedding dates coming up, and catering teams seem to be struggling to manage the situation."

Ongoing crisis affects restaurants in railway stations; onboard catering services not disrupted

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The ongoing LPG shortage has begun to affect restaurants in railway stations, with several food vendors reporting difficulties in maintaining regular operations due to declining gas supplies.

However, officials of South Western Railway (SWR) said catering services on trains have not been significantly disrupted so far.

At the busy Krantivira Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station, hotel owners said the shortage has forced them to alter their menus and limit items that require continuous gas usage.

A hotel owner running a food stall at the station said the shortage has compelled them to stop preparing certain popular dishes. "We have temporarily stopped making dosa and other tiffin items that require the stove to be on for long periods. The dosa preparation consumes a lot of gas throughout the day. With LPG cylinders becoming difficult to procure, we are now focusing on items like idli, packaged snacks, coffee and tea which require comparatively less gas," he said, adding that the uncertainty over cylinder supplies has made daily operations challenging.

In response to the fuel shortage, the IRCTC has advised catering units to adopt alternative cooking methods such as induction stoves and microwave ovens wherever feasible. FILE PHOTO

The railway officials said the impact on onboard catering has been limited because most meals served on long-distance trains are prepared in advance at base kitchens operated by the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC). These meals are then loaded onto trains at designated stations.

A senior SWR official explained that pantry cars on trains primarily function as distribution and reheating units rather than full-scale kitchens. "Most meals served on long-distance trains are cooked at base kitchens under controlled conditions and then supplied to trains at scheduled points. Pantry cars are mainly used for reheating and serving food to passengers. Because of this system, the current LPG shortage has not significantly affected catering services on trains so far, though we are closely monitoring the situation," the official said.

Alternative methods

In response to the fuel shortage, the IRCTC has advised catering units to adopt alternative cooking methods such as induction stoves and microwave ovens wherever feasible to ensure that passenger services continue without disruption.

The officials said they were coordinating with suppliers and catering contractors to manage the situation and prevent any major inconvenience to the passengers.

Khandre directs officials to remain vigilant and prevent illegal felling of trees in State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In view of the shortage of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), Minister for Forest, Ecology, and Environment Eshwar B. Khandre has directed forest officials to remain vigilant and prevent illegal felling of trees across the State.

Impact of LPG shortage

In a written directive to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, the Minister noted that the impact of the LPG shortage has begun to be felt in Karnataka. With several hotels, resorts and homestays facing difficulties in procuring commercial LPG cylinders and disruptions also being reported in the supply of domestic cooking gas, the demand for firewood has increased in many areas.

Eshwar Khandre

Expressing concern over the possibility of illegal tree cutting to meet the rising demand for firewood, Mr. Khandre instructed the officials to intensify patrolling and surveillance in forest areas, forest fringes, and government lands.

Mr. Khandre directed the officials to monitor all forest circles and ranges across the State and take adequate precautionary measures to prevent any illegal felling of trees.

The Minister also warned that strict accountability would be enforced. "If any instances of illegal tree felling are reported in forest areas or government lands, the officials and staff of the respective forest range would be held responsible," Mr. Khandre said.

'No shortage of piped natural gas'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

There is no shortage of gas supply for Piped Natural Gas (PNG) in Bengaluru and hotels, restaurants, and industries under the PNG network would continue to receive uninterrupted supply of the fuel, assured a senior officer at GAIL Gas Ltd., a subsidiary of GAIL (India) here on Thursday.

Speaking at an industry interactive session on 'Natural Gas Supply Outlook and Industry Preparedness' organised by the Bangalore Chamber of Industry & Commerce (BCIC), the official said, "The PNG supply in Bengaluru remains stable and fully under control. Industries, hotels and commercial establishments that are connected to the PNG network need not be concerned, as there is no disruption in supply and business operations will continue uninterrupted."

A senior GAIL Gas Ltd. official said eateries and hotels using commercial LPG and who are concerned about supply could switch to Piped Natural Gas line. FILE PHOTO

He said that those eateries and hotels that were using commercial LPG currently and were concerned about supply could switch to PNG line subject to the availability within a matter of two months. Responding to a barrage of media queries and concerns over the shortage of LPG in the city, the officer reassured that the government has increased domestic LPG production. "We are steadily expanding our pipeline network and ready to provide fresh pipeline gas connections across Bengaluru so that more consumers can shift to PNG," he explained. He further said India was not entirely dependent on a single international source, as natural gas imports were being sourced from multiple regions of the world.

He referred to a Government of India gazette notification (Natural Gas Supply Regulation) Order, 2026 aimed at better management of natural gas supply. As per the notification, priority segments considered as critical for the public would receive 100% of their average consumption from the last six months, while industrial and commercial users would receive up to 80% of their average gas consumption from the past six months.

Power generation in State may be hit in the wake of Centre's decision

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Power generation in Karnataka could face disruption following the Central Government's decision to prioritise natural gas supply to select sectors amid a shortage linked to the ongoing war in West Asia involving US-Israel and Iran, according to sources in the Energy Department.

The Centre recently issued a gazette notification under the Natural Gas (Supply Regulation) Order, 2026, prioritising sectors for gas allocation as the country faces supply constraints triggered by the US-Israel-Iran conflict in West Asia. Under the order, domestic consumption has been given the highest priority while power generation has been placed at the lowest level.

Officials said the decision has affected the State's only gas-based power plant at Yelahanka in Bengaluru.

Notification

"Following the Centre's notification prioritising natural gas allocation, gas supply to the Yelahanka gas-based power plant was completely stopped from 6 a.m. on Wednesday. Since power generation has been placed at the lowest priority category, supply to the sector is expected to remain restricted until the current shortage eases," the Energy Department stated. The 370 MW Yelahanka plant, operated by Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL), is Karnataka's only gas-based power generation facility and primarily supplies electricity to Bengaluru. An official said that any disruption in gas supply could affect power production at the plant.

"The Yelahanka unit has been operating continuously since December 2025 to support the power requirements of Karnataka. However, the ongoing natural gas shortage triggered by the West Asia conflict may affect generation at the plant," the official said.

Electricity demand

Karnataka's daily electricity demand currently stands at around 355 million units. The State is meeting this demand through a mix of thermal and hydel power plants, renewable sources such as solar and wind energy, and power drawn from the Central grid.

Peak demand

The offficials said that the State government was currently generating electricity from all available sources to ensure uninterrupted supply, particularly during periods of peak demand.

The department cautioned that continued restrictions in natural gas supply could lead to a minor disruption if alternative sources were not sufficient to bridge the gap.

Big care, tiny scars: a parent's guide to navigating paediatric urology

For any parent, hearing that their child needs medical or survival intervention can be frightening and overwhelming. But times have changed, and with advancing medical technology, paediatric urology today focuses on minimal intervention, maximum results; early knowledge allows reassurance, preparation, and preventive intervention

Ramesh Babu Srinivasan

It is a moment etched into the memory of every parent: the quiet hum of the ultrasound room, the cool gel on the skin admixed with the joy and anticipation of seeing that tiny, flickering heartbeat. But sometimes, the mood shifts as the sonographer lingers a little longer on the baby's midsection.

And concern clouds the parents mind once the doctor mentions "dilated kidneys" or "renal pelvis stretching." In that very moment, the joy of pregnancy can be clouded by a fog of "what-ifs." A train of queries floods their minds: What does it mean? How will my baby be delivered? Is it treatable and does my newborn need surgery once born? Can my baby ever lead a normal life?"

We live now, in a golden age of medical technology. What once required major surgery and weeks of recovery can now often be managed with a "wait and watch" approach or precision, keyhole procedures.

Why early diagnosis is a gift

Decades ago, kidney issues in children were often only discovered when a child became severely ill or developed a high fever. Today, the majority of these conditions are caught antenatally (before birth). Modern high-resolution ultrasounds act as a sophisticated early-warning system. While hearing that your unborn child has a "kidney anomaly" is terrifying, it has a significant advantage in allowing doctors to plan and monitor the foetus. Often these so-called "anomalies" are simply variations in development that require nothing more than a follow-up scan after the baby is born, with no need for intervention.

When it comes to your child's health, early knowledge isn't just information; it allows reassurance, preparation, and preventive intervention.

Understanding hydronephrosis

If your doctor mentions "kidney stretching" or "dilation," they are likely talking about hydronephrosis. This is the most common condition identified during prenatal scans. Essentially, it means the area of the kidney where urine collects (the renal pelvis) is wider than normal. The good news is that in a vast majority of babies, this dilation is transient. As the baby grows and the urinary system matures, the stretching often resolves on its own.

While parental anxiety is high here, the medical strategy is often "watchful waiting", with the use of postnatal ultrasounds to track the dilation. In most cases, no treatment is needed. Early detection allows for careful monitoring, turning what can feel scary into a story of normal development and reassurance.

The valve issue

In some cases, the ultrasound shows that both kidneys and ureters are dilated and the baby's bladder is unusually thick or full. This can point to a condition known as Posterior Urethral Valves (PUV), which occurs only in boys.

In Posterior Urethral Valves, there is a small, extra fold of tissue (the valve) in the tube that carries urine out of the bladder (the urethra).

Because the urine can't exit easily, it backs up, causing pressure to both the bladder and the kidneys. When detected early in pregnancy, it involves extensive counselling of the parents regarding the nature of illness, continuation of pregnancy (dependent on level of liquor-fluid within mother's uterus and nature of kidneys), and the natural course of the disease.

Treating the condition the "old way" might have involved open surgery, opening out the urinary bladder/ureter, on a fragile newborn. The "modern way" is far more elegant and even during the newborn period, paediatric urologists use a tiny camera (cystoscope) to enter the urethra and "ablate" or clear the valve. No incision/ scar is visible externally. A path for the passage of urine is cleared, and this provides immediate relief of pressure on the kidneys.

Recurrent infections

Once your child comes home, one thing to stay alert for is a Urinary Tract Infection (UTI). Recurrent infections, especially those accompanied by high fever often signal an underlying issue called Vesicoureteral Reflux (VUR). Normally, urine flows one way: from the kidneys, down the ureters, into the bladder. In VUR, the valve mechanism where the ureter meets the bladder doesn't close properly, allowing urine to wash back up toward the kidney, raising the risk of infection and kidney damage if ignored.

Often these so-called 'anomalies' are simply variations in development that require nothing more than a follow-up scan after the baby is born, with no need for intervention

Parents often worry about long-term antibiotic use or "big" surgeries. The good news? Treatment today is safe, effective and minimally invasive. It can involve:

Endoscopic injection: This is a simple fix with a quick recovery. Using a tiny camera, the doctor places a special gel at the opening of the ureter forming a small cushion that works like a one-way gate, preventing urine from flowing backward. It is a day-care procedure with no cuts and your child is back home the same day after recovery.

Laparoscopic surgery: For a higher grade of such cases, there are now strong solutions via a gentle approach. Surgeons use tiny instruments through 3-5mm incisions to reposition the ureter to a normal location. This offers the success rates of traditional open surgery with smaller scars and a fraction of the pain.

Ailments in older children

A common scenario involves a 5-15-year-old child complaining of intermittent "flank pain" (pain in the side or back), especially after drinking a lot of fluids with swelling of the tummy, often caused by a Pelviureteric Junction (PUJ) Obstruction – a condition with blockage at the point where the kidney meets the ureter.

For these older children, the gold standard is now robotic-assisted surgery. The surgeon operates with a 3D, high-definition view (10x magnification) and "wristed", tremor-filtered instruments that have a greater range of motion than the human hand. Robotic surgery allows for incredibly fine suturing in the delicate tissues of a child, ensuring the blockage is cleared with microscopic accuracy. With 1-2 days of hospital stay, your child is back on his/her feet within a week.

Towards safe, gentle care

For any parent, hearing that their child needs intervention can be frightening and overwhelming. But times have changed, and with advancing medical technology, paediatric urology today focuses on minimal intervention, maximum results.

We are moving away from large scars and long hospital stays. From newborns to teens, with the tools at our disposal – endoscopes, laparoscopes, and robots- care is gentler than ever. With advanced, child-friendly technology, fixing problems gently and safely is a reality so that your little one can get back their laughter, playtime, and a healthy childhood.

(Prof. Dr. Ramesh Babu Srinivasan is senior consultant in paediatric urology, Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education, Chennai. drrameshbabu1@gmail.com)

Medical advancements: Decades ago, kidney issues in children were often only discovered when a child became severely ill or developed a high fever. Today, the majority of these conditions are caught antenatally. GETTY IMAGES

THE GIST

We live now, in a golden age of medical technology. What once required major surgery and weeks of recovery can now often be managed with a "wait and watch" approach or precision, keyhole procedures

Robotic-assisted surgery, ultrasound, cystoscope, endoscopic injection, laparoscopic surgery are some of the modern tools that are used to treat myriad conditions

Modern high-resolution ultrasounds act as a sophisticated early-warning system. Early detection allows for careful monitoring, turning what can feel scary into a story of normal development and reassurance. With advanced, child-friendly technology, fixing problems gently and safely is a reality

As peptide therapy becomes a popular trend, experts call for caution

Athira Elssa Johnson

Globally, peptide therapeutics have been gaining attention in research as well as clinical practice. Studies show that more than 80 peptide-based drugs have already been approved worldwide, while over 150 peptide medicines are currently being studied in clinical trials for several medical conditions.

This trend is growing due to the promise of precision medicine and is mostly popular in wellness, fitness and anti-ageing promotions, as these medicines are seen as a targeted and 'advanced' way to improve health, appearance and performance.

How they work

Peptides are very small chains of amino acids, the basic building blocks of proteins in the body. They naturally act as messengers that regulate functions such as hormone release, metabolism, immune responses and tissue repair, said Pearlsy Grace Rajan, senior consultant, internal medicine, Rela Institute and Medical Centre, Chennai. Because they can bind to specific receptors, peptides can be designed to influence particular biological pathways with precision.

In therapy, these molecules are used as medicines that mimic the body's natural signals and send targeted instructions to certain cells. Since they resemble substances already produced by the body, they often act in a more targeted manner and are generally better tolerated than some conventional drugs. Studies show that peptide drugs account for nearly 9% of new medicines approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in recent years.

Peptide therapy is growing due to the promise of precision medicine and is mostly popular in wellness, fitness and anti-ageing promotions. GETTY IMAGES

According to Y. D. Meherprasad, senior consultant, endocrinology and preventive healthcare, MGM Healthcare, Malar, Chennai, peptide therapies are designed to influence particular biological processes in the body. Unlike some traditional medicines that may affect many systems at once, peptide-based treatments are developed to act on specific targets. Many peptide medicines are given through injections because they can be broken down in the digestive system if taken by mouth.

Dr. Rajan said interest has grown particularly in metabolic diseases such as diabetes and obesity, especially with GLP-1-based peptide drugs that help regulate blood sugar and appetite.

Peptides are explored in various fields. In oncology, they can target tumour receptors or deliver drugs directly to cancer cells. Studies suggest that oncology accounts for a significant share of peptide drug research pipelines.

In endocrinology, these therapies are used for conditions such as infertility, growth disorders and thyroid disease. Peptides that influence immune responses are also being studied for viral infections and inflammatory diseases.

In regenerative medicine, experimental peptides are being explored for their potential to stimulate tissue repair in muscles, tendons and nerves. Antoinetta Ashwini, consultant dermatologist at Apollo Hospitals, Chennai, said peptides are also being studied in dermatology, wound healing, osteoporosis and cardiovascular diseases, highlighting their expanding therapeutic potential.

According to Dr. Rajan, therapies such as insulin analogues and hormonal peptides are routinely used in clinical practice, though peptide therapies are not always recognised as a separate treatment category in many hospitals.

Risks of misuse

While several peptide drugs are already part of routine medical care, experts point out that the rising popularity of these in the biohacking, fitness and anti-ageing markets has led to over-marketing and misuse. Experts stress many peptides promoted online have limited or no human clinical trials.

Hundreds of peptide compounds remain in early-stage laboratory or pre-clinical research, and only a small proportion eventually become approved medicines.

Some products sold online as "research chemicals" may contain impurities or incorrect dosing. Because peptides can influence hormonal pathways, improper use may lead to metabolic disturbances, endocrine imbalance or cardiovascular risks. Self-injecting unapproved peptides can pose serious health risks.

Experts stress the importance of consulting a doctor about safety, research evidence and possible side effects is essential before starting such therapies.

(athira.elssa@thehindu.co.in)

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TIMES NOW

J BG-BGE

Man involved in a series of two-wheeler thefts in Karnataka and T.N. arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Mahadevapura police have arrested a man involved in a series of two-wheeler thefts and recovered 17 stolen vehicles worth about ₹11.8 lakh from different parts of the city and neighbouring Tamil Nadu.

According to the police, the case came to light after a resident of paying guest (PG) accommodation at Ashwath Nagar in Marathahalli filed a complaint on January 26.

The complainant had parked his two-wheeler near a hotel in the limits of the Mahadevapura Police Station. When he returned around 8.30 p.m., he found that the vehicle had been stolen.

Based on the complaint, a case was registered and the police launched an investigation. Acting on credible information, a police team apprehended a suspect on February 23 near Pushpanjali Theatre in Andhra Colony along with the stolen two-wheeler. During interrogation, the accused reportedly confessed to stealing the vehicle and revealed that he had been involved in multiple two-wheeler thefts across Bengaluru. He was produced before a court on February 24 and taken into police custody for 10 days.

Further questioning revealed that the accused had handed over 12 stolen two-wheelers to two associates living in Bairandanahalli village in Krishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu for sale. He also told the police that four other stolen vehicles had been parked in different areas in the city.

Based on his information, the police recovered 16 two-wheelers from different locations between March 1 and March 4. The police have recovered 17 two-wheelers worth about ₹11.8 lakh. The police said the arrest helped detect nine theft cases registered at the Mahadevapura, Kadugodi, Avalahalli, Bellandur, Varthur, Bommanahalli and HSR Layout Police Stations.

441 new public toilets will be built in GBA limits, says DKS

He was replying to Cong. member Aarthi Krishna in the Legislative Council, who raised concerns that many public toilets were not user-friendly and not in usable condition

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday said 441 new public toilets were being constructed in the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) limits, in addition to 388 existing toilets, to improve sanitation facilities across the city.

D.K. Shivakumar

Replying to Congress member Aarthi Krishna in the Legislative Council, Mr. Shivakumar said several measures were being taken to improve the availability and maintenance of public toilets in the city. Ms. Krishna had raised concerns that many public toilets in the GBA limits were not user-friendly and not in usable condition, and suggested that artificial intelligence (AI) be used to monitor cleanliness and maintenance.

In response, Mr. Shivakumar said the city currently has about 380 public toilets, of which 65 were being operated by retired pourakarmikas, while 20 were being run by persons with disabilities.

Under the Shubhra Bengaluru initiative, 60 toilets would be constructed, he said. In addition, 191 toilets were under construction.

He said the Union government had provided ₹13.5 crore under the Swachh Bharat Mission, under which 90 toilets were being built. Another 100 toilets were being constructed under the Brand Bengaluru initiative, primarily aimed at improving facilities for women.

"In total, 441 new toilets are being constructed, apart from the 388 existing ones. If members bring to our notice the need for toilets in specific locations, we will examine the availability of land and take steps to construct them," he said.

Special court grants bail to BJP MLA Byrathi Basavaraj in murder case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A special court in Bengaluru on Thursday granted bail to BJP MLA Byrathi Basavaraj in the case of murder of Shivaprakash alias Bikla Shiva, a realtor-cum-rowdy-sheeter, who was killed on July 15, 2025.

Santhosh Gajanan Bhat, judge of the special court of sessions for criminal cases against former and present MLAs and MPs, passed the order while allowing the bail plea of Basavaraj.

He was arrested on February 12, 2026, and was remanded in judicial custody after facing interrogation in the police custody for week after his arrest. Basavaraj has been arraigned as accused number-5 among the 20 accused.

No threats

The court directed the MLA not to threaten or tamper the prosecution witness and not to directly or indirectly make an attempt to influence any of the witnesses.

Among the other conditions are that Basavaraj has to appear before the investigating officer as and when required and has to cooperate for the probe, and not to leave the jurisdiction of the court without obtaining written permission from the court.

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For Search Committee
Addl. Chief Secretary (Finance & Taxation)

APPOINTMENT

NICMAR UNIVERSITY PUNE

RECRUITMENT FOR THE POSITION OF VICE-CHANCELLOR

THE SEARCH-CUM-SELECTION COMMITTEE INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR THE POST OF VICE-CHANCELLOR AT NICMAR UNIVERSITY, PUNE.

The National Institute of Construction Management and Research (NICMAR) is a pioneering organisation for the promotion of education, training, research, professionalism, and skill formation at all levels of the construction and other allied industries. NICMAR is an independent, autonomous, non-government, non-profit entity incorporated in India in September 1983 as a Society and a public Trust. NICMAR established a self-financed private university, "NICMAR University" at Pune in 2022, governed by the Maharashtra Private Universities Act, 2023 (Mah. Act No. VIII of 2024).

NICMAR is in the process of appointing a **Vice-Chancellor for NICMAR University, Pune,** to lead the university. The Hon'ble President of the University has constituted a Search-Cum-Selection Committee, which invites applications from eminent academicians who fulfil the qualifications and experience prescribed under UGC regulations for the post of Vice-Chancellor.

- A person possessing the highest level of competence, integrity, morals, and institutional commitment is to be appointed as Vice-Chancellor. The person shall be a distinguished academician with a minimum of 10 years of experience as Professor in a university or in a reputed research and/or academic administrative organisation, with proof of having demonstrated academic leadership and experience in educational planning and administration at national and international level.
- The minimum qualifications and eligibility shall be as per UGC regulations, details of which are available on the NICMAR University website. However, the Committee reserves the right to shortlist candidates based on institutional alignment. It is desirable that the applicant is from the Construction/Built Enviornment Sector as the University specialises in this field and offers only courses and programmes related to Construction/Built Enviornment Sector.
- The candidate must not exceed 65 years of age as at the closing date of this advertisement.
- Applications and nominations from eligible candidates must be submitted through the online form along with cover letter, latest resume & required supporting documents on or before **03 April 2026 at 5:00 P.M.** Please follow this link to access the online form - **https://nconnect.nicmar.ac.in/pune/careers**

Search-Cum-Selection Committee
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of railway stretches identified to curb elephant deaths

110 The Environment Ministry and Railways have identified 110 sensitive stretches across elephant ranges and 17 additional stretches in two tiger-range States, to prevent wildlife-train collisions, officials said. Comprehensive joint field surveys evaluated site-specific ecological conditions and proposed targeted mitigation measures for each location. PTI

Number of MPs who sought the removal of CEC Gyanesh Kumar

193 A total of 130 Lok Sabha MPs and 63 Rajya Sabha MPs have signed notices seeking the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, a source has said. The notice is likely to be submitted in at least one House on Friday. An Opposition leader said several lawmakers came forward to sign the notice on Thursday as well. PTI

Number of road accident deaths in Odisha in 2026

1025 people were killed and 1594 injured in 1616 road accidents that occurred in Odisha between January 1 and March 6, State Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhusan Jena told the Assembly. At least 24 people, on average, were injured in road accidents every day. In the 65-day period, 447 road accidents were reported on national highways in the State. PTI

Action taken against illegal structures in Navi Mumbai

11890 Minister of State for Urban Development Madhuri Misal said the civic body and City and Industrial Development Corporation have taken action against 11,890 illegal structures in Navi Mumbai. 870 notices were issued in cases of illegal construction. Action was taken against 340 illegal structures and 3133 illegal huts. PTI

Size of the budget of Arunachal Pradesh for 2026-27

36607 in ₹ crores. The Arunachal Pradesh Assembly passed a ₹36607 crore budget for 2026-27 by voice vote. Presented by Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein, the budget focuses on sectors such as health, education, connectivity and livelihoods. PTI

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Women's political participation in India

While the turnout of women voters has increased over the years, campaign participation still shows a clear gender gap. The disparity in Parliamentary representation also remains wide, reflecting limited candidature, party nominations, and constraints on political autonomy.

FULL CONTEXT

Sanjay Kumar
Vibha Attri

The story so far:
Women's relationship with electoral politics has undergone a profound transformation over the past six decades. Women today vote in numbers nearly equal to men, and in several State elections, even surpass them. Yet this remarkable rise in participation has not translated proportionately into representation or power. The Indian case presents a striking paradox: electoral inclusion without structural equality.

Women as voters
In the decades after Independence, electoral participation showed clear gender disparities. Although women were formally included in the electoral process, their turnout remained significantly lower than that of men. In the 1967 Lok Sabha election, male turnout was 66.7 percent while female turnout was 55.5 percent–a gap of 11.2 percentage points (Chart 1). Similar disparities continued into the 1970s. In 1971, the gap widened slightly to 11.8 points. These patterns reflected structural constraints such as lower female literacy, restricted mobility, domestic responsibilities, and limited political outreach to women.

From the 1980s onward, the gap began to narrow steadily. By 2009 it had fallen to 4.4 percentage points. The most notable shift came in the last decade: in 2014 the gap dropped to 1.5 points, and in both 2019 and 2024 women voted at nearly the same rate as men.

A similar trend is evident in State Assembly elections between 1990 and 2025 (Chart 2). In the early 1990s, women's voter turnout was on average 4-5 percentage points lower than that of men. This gender gap narrowed steadily through the 2000s, falling to -1.8 percentage points during the 2005-07 elections and to -1 percentage point by 2008-10.

After 2011, the pattern reversed. Women began voting at slightly higher rates than men, with the average turnout gap turning positive at 1.13 percentage points during 2011-13 and widening to 2.82 percentage points in 2015-16. Although the margin moderated in subsequent years, it remained positive at 1.6 percentage points during 2020-25. Overall, the average gender turnout gap in State Assembly elections from 1990 to 2025 shows a clear long-term convergence, followed by a modest but sustained advantage in women's voter participation.

Electoral participation beyond voting
While voter turnout has approached parity, campaign-level participation continues to show a clear gender gap (Table 3). Across Lok Sabha elections from 2009 to 2024, men consistently report higher involvement in public political activities.

Women's participation in campaign activities has been gradually increasing, though a clear gender gap persists. Attendance at election meetings and rallies rose from 9 percent in 2009 to around 16 percent in recent elections, while men's participation has remained roughly double.

Similar patterns are visible in processions and door-to-door canvassing, where women's involvement increased from about 5-6 percent to 11 percent, yet still lagged behind men. These trends suggest that while women are becoming more visible in public political activities, but they have limited engagement in electoral campaigns.

A key factor limiting women's public political engagement is the need for family permission. The Lokniti -CSDS Survey on Women and Politics, conducted in 2019, shows that most women report requiring approval for activities such as attending rallies, candidate meetings, or campaigning. These constraints highlight that gender gaps in visible political participation are shaped not only by interest or capability but also by social and familial norms (Table 4).

From participation to representation
If women have achieved parity as voters, representation in Parliament tells a different story.

In the first Lok Sabha in 1952, only 22 women were elected. For decades, women's representation fluctuated at modest levels. Even in 1977, the number dropped to 19. A visible shift began only in the 21st century. The number of women MPs rose from 59 in 2009 to 62 in 2014, and then to a historic high of 78 in 2019, before declining slightly to 74 in 2024 (Chart 5).

Yet even at its peak, women constituted only about 14 percent of the Lok Sabha–far below their near 50 percent share of the electorate.

The nomination bottleneck
The representational gap becomes clearer when examining candidature. In 1957, only 45 women contested parliamentary elections. By 1996, that number had risen sharply to 599. In recent elections, female candidature has continued to expand–668 women contested in 2014, 726 in 2019, and 800 in 2024 (Chart 6). However, these numbers must be viewed in context: male candidates still number in the thousands. Women remain a small minority among the total contestants.

Political parties often justify limited nominations by arguing that women are less "electable." Yet success rate data complicates this claim. In 1957, 49 percent of women candidates won compared to 33 percent of men (Chart 7). In 1962, women's success rate was 47 percent against 25 percent for men. Even in recent elections, women's success rates are comparable or slightly higher: in 2019, 11 percent of women candidates won, compared to 6 percent of men. In 2024, the success rates were 9 percent for women and 6 percent for men. These figures indicate that when women are given tickets, they are capable of winning.

Autonomy and political socialisation
Women's underrepresentation in legislatures reflects not only limited candidature and party nominations but also constraints on political autonomy and socialisation. While women now vote at near-parity with men, their decisions are not always independent. In 2014, 51 percent reported voting without advice, a figure that slightly declined to 50 percent by 2024.

These patterns are also reflected in women's attitudes toward political alignment within the family. A majority of women (52 percent) consider it important to share the same political views as their family (Chart 8)

Beyond family and social constraints, women also face systemic obstacles within political institutions. Many perceive that political opportunities are not equally accessible. Data from the Lokniti-CSDS study on women and politics show that 58 percent of women believe it is easier for a woman from a political family to enter politics, while 57 percent feel that women from higher economic backgrounds have an advantage. Nearly half (44 percent) think that political parties prefer men when allocating tickets, and a similar proportion believe that voters favour male candidates over female (Table 9).

Structural and social barriers
When asked about the broader challenges that shape women's political participation, women pointed to a range of structural and social factors. Patriarchal structures are the biggest obstacle, cited by 22 percent of women, followed by household responsibilities (13 percent) and individual-level constraints such as lack of confidence, awareness or experience (12 percent). Cultural norms (7 percent) and financial or structural constraints (6 percent) were also reported (Table 10).

While women now vote at near-parity, true power and representation remain limited. The passage of the Women's Reservation Bill provides a structural path to bridge this gap, but the challenge remains to ensure that women's participation translates into real authority and decision-making.

(Sanjay Kumar is a Professor and Political Analyst. Vibha Attri is a Researcher working with Lokniti-CSDS. Views expressed by the authors are personal.)

Winds of change

The data for the charts were sourced from the Women and Politics study conducted by Lokniti-CSDS

Chart 1: The year-wise difference between male and female voter turnout between 1967 and 2024 Lok Sabha elections

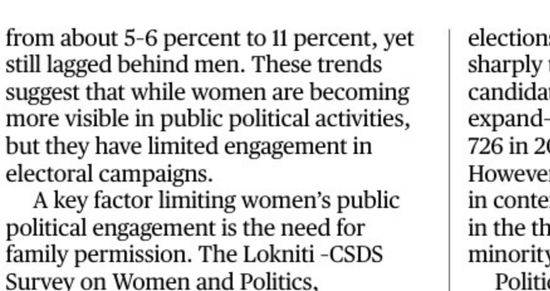


Chart 2: Average gender gap in State Assembly elections between 1990 and 2025

Table 4: The share of who said they needed permission to participate in select political activities (in %)

Activity	Need Permission Yes (%)
Attend a political rally	64
Attend a candidate meeting	62
Join a protest	63
Campaign for a candidate or party	61

Chart 5: Year-wise number of women MPs elected to the Lok Sabha

Chart 7: Success rate of male and female candidates in Lok Sabha elections (in %)

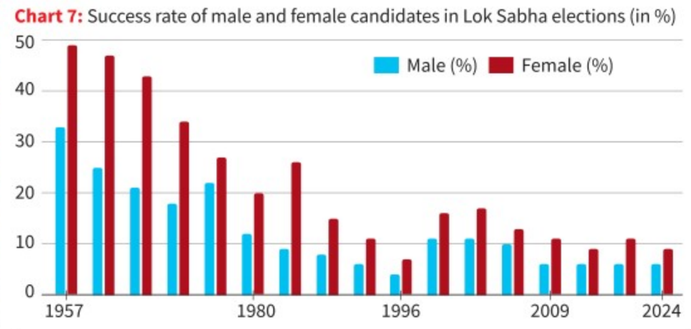


Chart 8: How women perceive having the same political views as their families (in %)

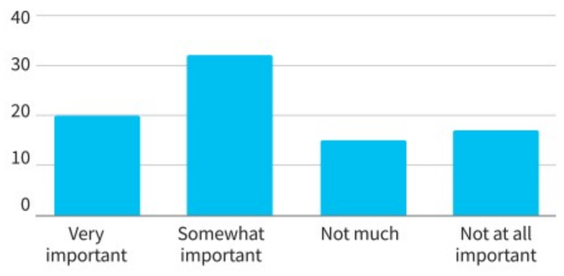


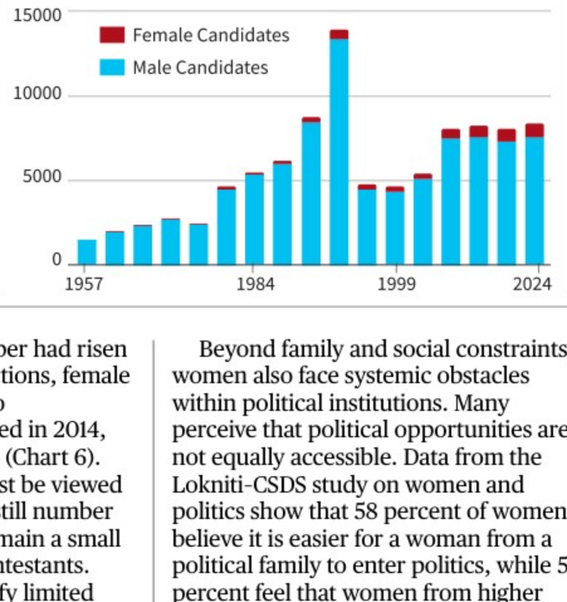
Table 9: The share of women who agree with the following statements about structural barriers (in %)

Statement	Agree (%)
Easier for woman with a political background to enter politics	58
Easier for woman from upper economic status to join politics compared to a woman from lower economic status	57
Parties routinely favour men over women, regardless of candidate merit	44
Voters are more likely to vote for men than women	44

Table 3: Gender-wise participation in political activities over the years

Campaign activity	2009		2014		2019		2024	
Gender	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Election meetings/rallies	9%	28%	15%	34%	14%	29%	16%	31%
Participation in processions	5%	20%	6%	15%	8%	14%	11%	18%
Participation in door to door canvassing	6%	17%	6%	14%	7%	13%	11%	19%

Chart 6: Gender-wise number of candidates in Lok Sabha elections



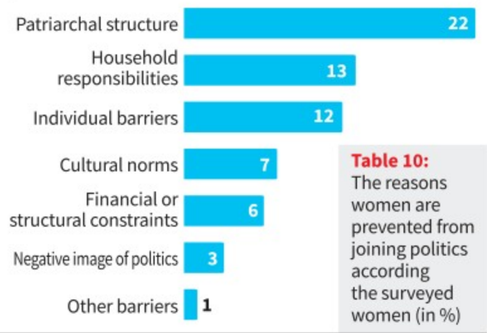


Table 10: The reasons women are prevented from joining politics according the surveyed women (in %)

THE GIST

- Post Independence, electoral participation showed clear gender disparities. Although women were formally included in the electoral process, their turnout remained lower than that of men. From the 1980s onward, the gap began to narrow.
- While voter turnout has approached parity, campaign-level participation continues to show a gender gap. Across Lok Sabha elections from 2009 to 2024, men report higher involvement in public political activities.
- Representational gap in Parliament and State legislatures is prominent. Beyond family and social constraints, women also face systemic obstacles, with many perceiving that political opportunities are not equally accessible.

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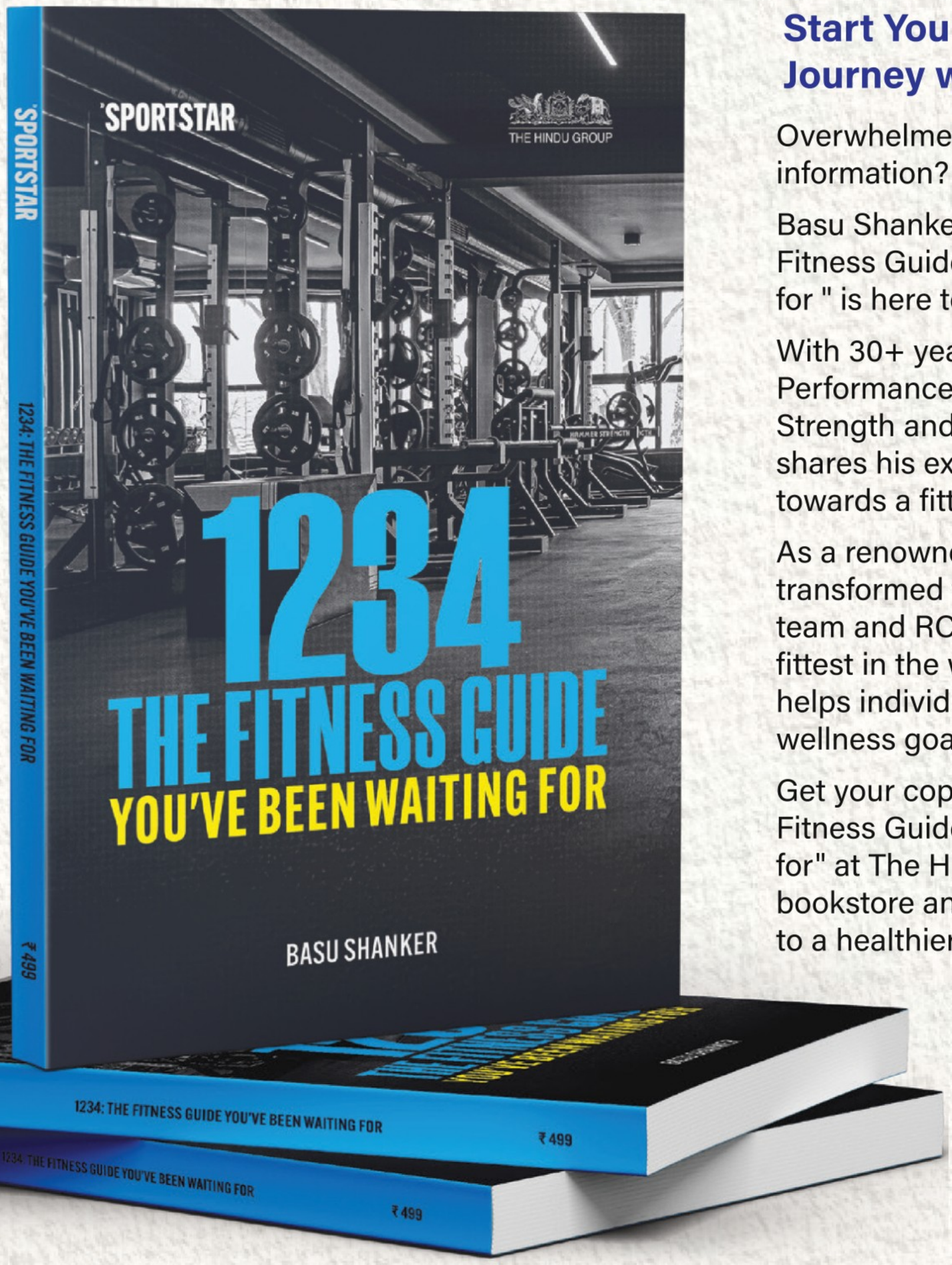

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Medical student killed in accident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 21-year-old medical student was killed and another sustained serious injuries after a two-wheeler collided with a tipper truck in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

The deceased has been identified as Krithika, 21, a fourth-year medical student of Rajarajeswari Medical College and Hospital.

According to the police, the accident occurred around 4.15 p.m. when Krithika was returning home after college, along with her friend on a scooter. The accident took place in front of the college.

The police said the scooter was allegedly hit by the tipper truck and skid on the road. While the rider of the scooter fell to the left side, Krithika, who was riding pillion, fell to the right side.

The wheel of the tipper lorry reportedly ran over Krithika, leading to her death on the spot.

The rider, identified as Hamsa, sustained serious injuries. She was admitted to the hospital attached to the college for treatment.

Officials from the Kengeri Traffic Police visited the spot. The police arrested the driver and seized the truck. A case has been registered and further investigation is on.

BAMUL's 'Ugadi bonus' for milk producers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As Bengaluru Milk Union Ltd. (BAMUL) is expected to report a record turnover of about ₹3,400 crore by the end of the 2025-2026 financial year, it has decided to pay ₹1 per litre as 'Ugadi Bonus' to 1.27 lakh farmers from whom milk is procured from April 1 to March 31, 2026. This year, BAMUL has procured 59.39 crore litres of milk this year, and the 'Ugadi bonus' will entail an expenditure of about ₹59.39 crore.

On average, 16 to 18 lakh litres of milk is procured daily, the milk union targets to reach 24 lakh average procurement daily.

"The BAMUL, which had reported a loss of ₹14.5 crore, has already reported a profit of ₹60 crore. So far, the turnover this year has increased by around ₹500 crore. Last year, turnover was around ₹2,900 crore," BAMUL president D.K. Suresh told presspersons here on Thursday.

Mr. Suresh said that BAMUL has set the target of reaching a turnover of ₹5,000 crore in coming years.

He said that apart from paying farmers the Ugadi Bonus, the milk union has decided to pay ₹5,000 to casual workers, clear the DA dues of ₹4.68 crore to workers, and confirm the appointment of workers who had not been confirmed in the last three years.

The BAMUL will also provide ₹15,000 to each of 2,300 milk cooperative societies that will cost about ₹3.45 crores.

Toddler dies after falling into water sump at Byadarahalli

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A two-and-a-half-year-old boy died after accidentally falling into a water sump at a house at Byadarahalli in north Bengaluru on Wednesday.

The deceased has been identified as Chirag, son of Annayya, a private firm employee, and Rithu, residents of Byadarahalli.

According to police, the couple was preparing to attend a relative's wedding. The incident occurred when the child's father had opened the sump lid to draw water for washing a car and briefly went inside the house. While playing nearby, the toddler accidentally fell into the open sump and drowned. The incident came to light when the family members stepped outside and noticed the child missing.

Case registered
A case has been registered at the Madanayakanahalli Police Station and further investigation is under way.

Man gets seven years' RI in robbery case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 5th Additional District and Sessions Court at Devanahalli has convicted and sentenced a man to seven years of rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of ₹10,000 in a chain-snatching case that occurred in 2019 in the Bagalur Police Station limits. According to the police, on March 14, 2019 at around 5.15 a.m., the complainant, Lakshmi, was out for a morning walk when two unidentified persons arrived on a scooter.

On the pretext of asking for directions, they allegedly attacked her with a knife and fled with a gold chain.

After examining the evidence, the court convicted Syed Vaseem alias Vaseem.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No.: SG-SWR-PROJUBL-KAVACH-BLD Dated: 09.03.2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Proposed Construction of a Project Store Shed and Augmentation of other Store improvement Works.	Rs. 3,37,80,472.45

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:30 Hrs. on 06.04.2026**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Dy. Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Projects/Hubballi
PUB/990/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE
This notice is issued on behalf of my client Sri.Narayanappa to bring to the notice of the general public that the Original Gift Deed dated 02.06.2010, Registered document No. 1547/2010-11 Page Nos. 7, 8 & 9 and Original Rectification Gift Deed dated 03.10.2011, Registered document No.5603/2011-12 Page No.7 and Original Unregistered Partition Deed dated 13.11.1983 has been lost at the time of travelling.
All the the persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said Original documents. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 7 days from this present along with with that Police Complaint is also given vide Lost Report No. 2106167/2026 dated 12.03.2026.
Y. Sowmya Yadav, Advocate
Samvruddhi Legal, # 83, Ground Floor, 5th 'A' Cross, 21st Main, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore-78. **M : 9916343921**

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is given on behalf of Our Client and they are willing to purchase the property which is more particularly described in the schedule hereunder is owned by **Ms. SUSHMA GOVINDARAJU** Daughter of Late Shamrao Govindaraju, **Ms. RASHMI G** Daughter of Late Shamrao Govindaraju, **Mr. SURAJ G** Son of Late Shamrao Govindaraju, of all that piece and parcel of the property bearing survey No.198, situated at Somanahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South, Taluk and measuring in all 4 acres 23 guntas and all that piece and parcel of the converted portion of property in Survey Number 198, vide conversion order No.BD/ALNSR(S)/391/88-89 for one acre, by Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore, situated at **Somanahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk** and all that piece and parcel of the agricultural land bearing number **Sy. Number 191/8,** measuring 0-31 guntas, situated at **Somanahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk** of schedule property. My client has decided to Purchase the said schedule property.
It is hereby informed that any person(s) having any claim in respect of the above referred property or part thereof by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, charge, gift, maintenance, inheritance, possession, lease, tenancy, sub tenancy, lien, license, hypothecation, transfer of title or beneficial interest under any or other disposition or under any decree, order or Award or otherwise claiming, howsoever, re hereby requested to make the same known in writing together with supporting documents to the undersigned at the office of **Ashvik Law Associates, Advocates and Solicitors,** within a period of **7 days** of the publication hereof failing which the claim of such person(s) will deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned,
SCHEDULE
ITEM NO. 1 All That Piece and Parcel Of the property bearing survey **No.198,** and measuring in all 4 acres 23 guntas: (four acres and twenty-three guntas). situated at **Somanahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South, Taluk.**
ITEM No.2 all that piece and parcel of the converted portion of property in **Survey Number 198,** vide conversion order No. BD/ALNSR(S) /391/88-89 for one acre, by Special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore, situated at **Somanahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk.**
ITEM No.3 all that piece and parcel of the agricultural land bearing number Sy. Number 191/8, measuring 0-31 guntas, situated at **Somanahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk.**
Sd/-
Ashvik Law Associates,
Office at No 24, First Floor, Sri Rama Mandir Road, Near to Lalbagh Metro Station, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004. Mob: 9916590318.

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Padmanabhanagara Division, Opposite to Sagar Hospitals, Kumaraswamy Layout, Bengaluru-560078.
No:EE(PN)/TEND/16/2025-26 Date: 12-03-2026
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Tender Document System) **STD. KW-3**
(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
The Executive Engineer, Padmanabhanagara Division, Bengaluru South City Corporation, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible contractors registered with Greater Bengaluru Authority (BBMP) or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations for the works detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the works
1.	Providing Pothole Filling to Padmanabhanagara Division, BSCC in Ward No-191,192 and 193 (Old Ward no-180, 181 and 182) Roads for the Year 2025-26. (2nd Call). (Others). **Approximate Value of Work ₹.60.00 Lakhs, EMD ₹. 1,20,000.00**

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender must be submitted online through KPP Portal on or before **26-03-2026** upto **4:00** pm. (2) Technical Bids will be opened on **27-03-2026** at **4:05** pm.
Sd/- Executive Engineer
Padmanabhanagara Division

PUBLIC NOTICE
My Clients intends to Purchase the immovable property being the Residential Property bearing Site No.54, Khata No.981/B/54, present BBMP E-Katha EPID No.6011048690 and Property No.5898/981/B/54, Situated at Dasarahalli Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, presently known as No.54, 6th Cross, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Dasarahalli, Bengaluru- 560 024, along with Residential House constructed thereon, which is morefully mentioned and described in the Schedule herein below from its present Owner **Sri. GOVINDA** S/o Late Thimmaiah Residing at. No.54, 1st floor, 20th 'R' Cross, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Hebbal, Bengaluru-560 024.
Any person or persons asserting any rights, title, interest or claim in the Schedule Property or any part thereof in any manner or having any claim against the schedule property and documents thereof, against the owner or objecting to such Sale in favour of my client should lodge the claims with the undersigned within Fourteen **(14)** days of the issuance of this Public Notice with all documentary proof on which they are basing and asserting their rights with regard to the schedule property or any part thereof, after which period my client shall proceed on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature in respect of the schedule property and proceed with the proposed Sale Transaction.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of immovable property being the Residential property bearing **Site No.54,** Khata No.981/B/54, present BBMP E-Katha EPID No.6011048690 and Property No.5898/981/B/54, Situated at Dasarahalli Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk, presently known as No.54, 6th Cross, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Dasarahalli, Bengaluru- 560 024 and the site total measuring 1400 Sq. ft. along with the residential house constructed thereon within the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (Under GBA) including all rights, privileges and appearances and the Site Measuring: East to West : 35 Feet
North to South : 40 Feet
Totally measuring: 1400 Square Feet And bounded on the:
East by : Property No.55
West by : Property No.53
North by : Property No.43
South by : Road.
C. S. RAVISHANKAR, Advocate
M/s RAVISHANKAR ASSOCIATES
No.392, I Floor, 13th Cross, 6th Main Road, Sadashivanagar, Bangalore-560080. Ph. 2361 0631, E-mail: ravishankarassociates91@gmail.com
Date:12-03-2026

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Shivajinagara Division, Thimmaiah Road, Queens Road, Bengaluru - 560052.
No: EE(SJN)/E-PROC/QTN/06/2025-26 Date: 12-03-2026
SHORT TERM QUOTATION NOTIFICATION FOR RATES
Executive Engineer, Shivajinagara Division, BCCC, Bengaluru invites quotation from the Reputed Agencies / Suppliers / Distributors / Contractors for the work of **Providing Granites in front of Sri Someshwara Temple Road in Ward No. 121, Ulsoor** for detailed below.

Sl. No.	Particulars
1	Providing and Laying flamed finish granite stone flooring in required design and patrons, in linear as curilinear portions of the building all complete as per the architectural drawings with 100 mm thick **Tumkur Parpari Red Granite Slab** with 4 sides machine cut laid over 20 mm thick base of cement mortar 1:4 (1 cement:4 coarse sand) and jointed with cement slurry including cost of Material, Labour Charges of Machinery, Loading and Unloading, Lead and Lift, Transportation and etc., Complete as directed by the Engineer incharge of the work. **Unit: m2, Qty.: 1**
2	Providing and Laying flamed finish granite stone flooring in required design and patrons, in linear as curilinear portions of the building all complete as per the architectural drawings with 100 mm thick **Chamrajnagara Black Granite Slab** with 4 sides machine cut laid over 20 mm thick base of cement mortar 1:4 (1 cement:4 coarse sand) and jointed with cement slurry including cost of Material, Labour Charges of Machinery, Loading and Unloading, Lead and Lift, Transportation and etc., Complete as directed by the Engineer incharge of the work. **Unit: m2, Qty.: 1**
3	Providing and Laying flamed finish granite stone flooring in required design and patrons, in linear as curilinear portions of the building all complete as per the architectural drawings with 100 mm thick **Grey Granite Slab** with 4 sides machine cut laid over 20 mm thick base of cement mortar 1:4 (1 cement:4 coarse sand) and jointed with cement slurry including cost of Material, Labour Charges of Machinery, Loading and Unloading, Lead and Lift, Transportation and etc., Complete as directed by the Engineer incharge of the work. **Unit: m2, Qty.: 1**
4	Providing and Laying flamed finish granite stone flooring in required design and patrons, in linear as curilinear portions of the building all complete as per the architectural drawings with 70 mm thick **Grey Granite Slab** with 4 sides machine cut laid over 20 mm thick base of cement mortar 1:4 (1 cement:4 coarse sand) and jointed with cement slurry including cost of Material, Labour Charges of Machinery, Loading and Unloading, Lead and Lift, Transportation and etc., Complete as directed by the Engineer incharge of the work. **Unit: m2, Qty.: 1**
5	Providing and Laying **Grey Granite Kerb Slab** of 100 mm thick, 400 mm height, 450 width with all sides in machine cut finished with cement mortar 1:3 (1 cement:3 coarse sand) plasting and finishing Including cost of Material, Labour Charges of Machinery, Loading and Unloading, Lead and Lift, Transportation and etc., Complete as directed by the Engineer incharge of the work. **Unit: Nos, Qty.: 1**
6	Providing and Laying of **Grey Granite Street Lamp** post of 3.6 Mtrs length with 300 mm x 300 mm square base column with top Bodhiga 600 mm x 600 mm 4 sides carving with 20 watts 8 led bulbs including cost of Material, Labour Charges of Machinery, Loading and Unloading, Lead and Lift, Transportation and etc., Complete as directed by the engineer incharge of the work. **Unit: Each, Qty.: 1**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Documents can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 13-03-2026, 16.00 Hours. 2)** Last Date for Uploading the Filled Tender Document is **20-03-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. 3)** Date of Opening of the Quotation is **23-03-2026 at 11.30 Hours (if possible or next working day).** Further details can be had from the above office.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Shivajinagara Division, BCCC.

Government of Karnataka
Office of The Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Haveri
Email : eeprednhvr@gmail.com Tel. No : 08375-232454
This office letter No.49 /EE/PREDn/HVR/PB-1/Tender/2025-26/7408 Dated : 11-03-2026
E-Tender Notification
On 11-03-2026 through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Tender Notification has been issued for the following work Indent No. 23556/Call-3, 21571/Call-2 Last date for submission of tender receipt is assigned on Dated : **20-03-2026** (up to 4:00 PM). For further additional information, any changes & queries please visit http://www.kppp.karnatak.gov.in.
DIPR/HVR/KSMCA/803/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Haveri**

Government of Karnataka
(Department of School Education)
Karnataka Text Book Society®
6th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560 003
e-mail: **mdktbs.tender@gmail.com** Website: **https://textbooks.karnataka.gov.in**
No: A7/98529/KTBS/ADM/TBTR/9/2025-26/Part-1/KTBS/25-26/IND0018 Date: 12.03.2026
SHORT-TERM RETENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement portal only)
07 days Short term Re-Tender is invited under Two Bid System for the year 2026-27 on Government of Karnataka e-procurement platform from eligible printers, having Infrastructure as specified in the Tender Document to print and supply textbooks, workbooks ,student diaries and Value education text books to students of Government Schools. Package wise payable EMD details are mentioned under section 10 of the Re-tender document.
Eligible printers may offer their bidding up-to **5.30 PM on 23.03.2026.** Tender document is available in e-portal as well as department website.
E-procurement portal address: https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in
Portal Helpline: +91-9240214000 / +91-9240214001
Department Website: https://textbooks.karnataka.gov.in
Sd/- Managing Director, KTBS, Bengaluru.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
NOTIFICATION
Bengaluru, 20 February, 2026
S.O. 942(E) - In exercise of the powers conferred by clause 37(A) of Section 2 of the Railways Act, 1989 (Act no. 24 of 1989) the Ministry of Railway (South Western Railway, Construction Organization, Bengaluru Cantonment) hereby notifies the project, as "Special Railway Project" mentioned in the table below, in the State of Karnataka for providing National Infrastructure for a Public Purpose with effect from date of publication of the notification in the Official Gazette.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Village	Taluk	District
1	Electrification of Vyasa Colony – Amravathi Colony (120 RKM/150 TKM) section of SWR.	Neelgunda	Harapanahalli	Vijayanagar

No.W.271/CN/BNC/2025-26/Land SRP/1727
For details log on: https://egazette.gov.in
Pardeep Puri, Chief Engineer - III, Construction, Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/977/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform ticktes, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.
South Western Railway-SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
NOTIFICATION
Bengaluru, 02 March, 2026
S.O. 1117(E) - In exercise of the powers conferred by clause 37(A) of Section 2 of the Railways Act, 1989 (Act no. 24 of 1989) the Ministry of Railway (South Western Railway, Construction Organization, Bengaluru Cantonment) hereby notifies the project, as "Special Railway Project" mentioned in the table below, in the State of Karnataka for providing National Infrastructure for a Public Purpose with effect from date of publication of the notification in the Official Gazette.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Village	Taluk	District
1	Bengaluru City - Mysuru Section: Construction of Road Under Bridge in lieu of LC No. 10 at KM: 10/900 - 11/000 between Nayandahalli and Kengeri stations	Valagerahalli	Bengaluru South	Bengaluru

No.W.271/CN/BNC/2025-26/Land SRP/1727
For details log on: https://egazette.gov.in
Pardeep Puri, Chief Engineer- III, Construction, Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/972/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26
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BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Assistant Director (Animal Husbandry), Annex-3, 4th Floor, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-02
No.: BCCC/2025-26/IND0002/CALL-2 Date: 12.03.2026
TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF COMBINED VACCINE (5 IN 1) FOR STRAY DOGS
The Chief Veterinary Officer BCCC invites proposal in two cover system for supply of Combined vaccine for stray dogs, BCCC through Karnataka public procurement portal of Government of Karnataka (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) as per the provisions of the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act & Rules 2000. Prospective suppliers willing to participate in this tender shall necessarily register themselves with above mentioned portal.
(1) Tender Reference: **BCCC/2025-26/IND0002/CALL-2. (2)** Pre-bid meeting date and time: **16.03.2026, 12:30 p.m.** at the following venue: **Office of AD, BCCC, Annex-3, 4th Floor, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002. (3)** Last date and time for submission of queries in Karnataka public procurement portal: **16.03.2026 upto 5:00 p.m. (4)** Last date and time for submission of tender in Karnataka public procurement portal: **20.03.2026, 5:00 p.m. (5)** Date and time of opening of the Technical bid in Karnataka public procurement portal: **23.03.2026** at **11:00 a.m. (6)** EMD Amount: **As per Schedule of requirement. (7)** Address for communication: **Assistant Director (Animal Husbandry), Annex-3, 4th Floor, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-02, Ph: 99002 29973, Email: adahbccc@gmail.com**
Prospective Service Providers willing to participate in this tender can download the bid documents with visiting the web **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)**
Sd/- Assistant Director (Animal Husbandry), BCCC

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, CHITRADURGA
No.EE:PWD:CTA:AE-1:Tender-68:2025-26 Dated:- 12.03.2026
SHOR TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
Tenders are invited from registered Contractors in KPWD for the following works through KPPP Portal as per standard tender documents rules.
Name of work:- Two cover System :- Head of Account 4059-80-051-0-60-132 CMIDP Works:-(1) Improvements to Myaklurahalli Sondekere road from km 5.33 to 17.87 km in Selected reaches in Hiriyur taluk (Vaddikere, M.D.Kote) (W.I.31163)/CALL-2
Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs:-300.00
(2) Improvements and Asphalting to D.S.Halli to Sanikere road from km 14.95 to 19.16 km in Selected reaches in Hiriyur taluk (Sondekere) (W.I.31198)/CALL-2
Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs:-300.00
(3) Improvements to Pitlali to NH-4 road via Kasturirangappanahalli road from km 0.30 to 1.60 and 5.40 km to 6.70km As per PRAMC Chainage - Km 6.36 to 7.66 and 1.26 to 2.56 Km) in Hiriyur taluk (W.I.31145)/call-2
Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs:-300.00
Tenders dates are as mentioned below: Late Date & time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications 26-03-2026 Time: 17.30
Last Date & time for receipt of tenders 27-03-2026 Time: 16.00
Date & time for opening of Technical Bid 30-03-2026 Time: 11.00
Date & time for opening of Financial Bid 02-04-2026 Time: 11.00
Further details can be obtained from this office and H.P. Company helpline Numbers 91 9240214000 and 91 9240214001.
DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/755/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD, Chitradurga.**

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME
I, ERAPPA S/o Channaiah R/a No.17, Doddanna Building, Gollarahatti, Viswaneedam, Bangalore-560091 have changed my name to Eranna vide affidavit dt: 11.03.2026 sworn before Notary H.R.Karunakara, B'luru
I, PERUMAL S, R/a No.5/2 Old 6th Main Road, New 4th Main Road, Society Colony Nanajappa Layout, Bangalore-560030 have changed my minor Son's name from Santhosh to Santhosh Sikkanna Gounder Perumal vide affidavit dt: 08.03.2026 sworn before Notary H.R.Karunakara, B'luru.
I, MAHI MOHIT SRIVASTAVA alias Savita Rajendraprasad Chaurasia D/o Rajendraprasad Chaurasia W/o Mohit Verma R/o No–6014 Prestige Shantiniketan Whitefield Main Road Mahadevapura Bangalore Karnataka – 560048 have changed my name to SAVITA RAJENDRAPRASAD
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SITUATION VACANT
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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY

CA T.N. SOUNDARARAJAN
Attained his Acharyan's Thiruvadi on **Thursday March 12th 2026** at **10.08 A.M.**
Deeply mourned by his Family and Friends

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

FIRST ANNIVERSARY

SOWMYAN RAMAN
D.O.B: 22- 8- 1938 D.O.D: 13 - 3 -2025
Fondly remembered by
Geetha Raman, Vidya Tinku Raman, Ramchandran Kalyanam,Nivaas, Dayven,Shivum, Rupa Raman, Kartik Royapet, Ajay, Neela, Brother & Sisters
Contact: 001 425 205 5916
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Dr.N.JAYARAMAN
22.02.1911 TO 13.03.1971
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Mammoth task: Industrial heat currently accounts for around 25 percent of India's total energy consumption and shifting that load from gas pipes to electric wires would be an engineering challenge. REUTERS

Electrifying industrial heat as a path to India's thermal independence

As the conflict between the United States and Iran intensifies, the Strait of Hormuz has become increasingly volatile; with India importing nearly half of its natural gas, the crisis signals the urgency of accelerating the electrification of industrial heat

Vasudevan Mukunth

In the industrial town of Morbi in Gujarat, the air usually hums with the roar of gas-fired kilns producing millions of square metres of ceramic tiles. Today, however, a quarter of those kilns are cold. Nearly a thousand kilometres away in Ludhiana, Punjab, the textile hubs that clothe a third of India are facing a similar paralysis. The reason is geopolitical.

As the conflict between the U.S. and Iran intensifies, the Strait of Hormuz, the world's most vital oil and gas artery, has turned into a gauntlet. India imports nearly half of its natural gas and immediately felt the pinch – rendered more painful by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, slashing gas allocations to non-priority industrial sectors to just 65-80% of their contracted volumes.

The need for thermal independence

For the manufacturers in Morbi and Ludhiana who began experimenting with new energy models years ago, the present crisis must be a moment of validation as they accelerate towards concentrated solar thermal (CST) technology and the large-scale electrification of heat. For others, however, it can seem like an ultimatum to fast-track decarbonisation and, for India overall, a reminder that it needs thermal independence, i.e. a 'sovereign' source of heat, rather than just energy independence.

For decades, industrial heat has been synonymous with burning hydrocarbons like coal or gas. In Ludhiana's textile mills, for instance, large boilers burn gas to create steam used in dyeing and finishing. In Morbi, gas flames bake tiles at temperatures exceeding 1,000 °C.

Rooftop solar photovoltaic panels have become common but they are designed to produce electricity, not the raw, intense heat that industries demand, so this is where CST has become relevant. While photovoltaics use semiconductors to convert renewable sunlight into a stream of electrons, CST uses precisely controlled mirrors to concentrate sunlight onto a receiver, where it heats a fluid like water or molten salt to up to 400 °C.

Most textile processes, including scouring and bleaching, require a temperature between 100 °C and 180 °C. By installing parabolic troughs on factory grounds or nearby land, these mills can generate pressurised steam directly from sunlight.

According to data from the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, India has a CST potential of 15 GW. Adoption, however, remains low – but as gas prices have already tripled due to the war in West Asia, the payback period for a CST installation has already shrunk from seven years to less than three.

For more than a century, people at homes, engineers in laboratories, and industrial operators have burnt fuel to create hot air, then transfer that heat to a product even though it is highly inefficient. For instance, a gas boiler loses 20-30 percent of its energy just in the exhaust. The electrification of heat, on the other hand, replaces the flame with electromagnetic fields and plasma. For example, an induction stove passes an electric current through a coil, creating a magnetic field that generates heat directly inside the metal or in the material being processed. There is no intermediary substance like air or steam that takes away a part of the heat, so the efficiency rates of such heaters have been known to exceed 90 percent.

In Morbi, several forward-thinking ceramic units are also experimenting with plasma torches for their kilns. Here, gas is ionised to a state called plasma. Plasma torches also allow users to closely control their temperature, thus preventing under- or over-heating for different processes.

Infrastructural challenges

The bigger question, however, is whether India's grid is ready. If every factory in Ludhiana and Morbi switched to induction and plasma heating tomorrow, the power grid would likely collapse. This is because industrial heat currently accounts for around 25 percent of India's total energy consumption and shifting that load from gas pipes to electric wires would be an engineering challenge.

Most factories operate on a 24/7 cycle whereas solar and wind energy are intermitted, so in order to electrify heat for industry, India needs round-the-clock renewable power, which entails a large rollout of battery energy storage systems and pumped hydro storage. At present, India's storage capacity is in its infancy and without it, the grid is not in a position to sustain the large 'spikes' of energy that heavy industrial induction furnaces demand.

Second, local power grids in industrial clusters like Ludhiana are often ageing. High-capacity induction heating requires high-voltage substations and reinforced cabling for last mile supply. Asset-loading reports from DISCOMs (elctricity distribution companies) in industrial clusters suggest that roughly a quarter to a third of distribution transformers can be critically loaded during peak hours, with little headroom for additional demand.

These constraints accentuate CST's advantage, especially as a source of heat that does not depend on the grid. By generating thermal energy on-site and storing it in insulated tanks, a factory can continue operating even at night without drawing a single watt from the national grid. Thermal storage is also much cheaper than lithium-ion battery storage.

To survive the LPG crisis and complete the transition to electrified heat, India needs a 'National Thermal Policy'. Its current subsidies focus heavily on electricity (photovoltaics in particular) whereas there are few incentives for direct-heat technologies like CST. The government should consider providing the same production-linked incentives to CST mirror manufacturers that it gave to solar cell manufacturers. India also needs to reform the carbon market to allow factories in Morbi, say, to sell their 'avoided emissions' through the nascent Carbon Credit Trading Scheme and use the revenue to offset the high capital cost of electric kilns.

Global policy lessons

Industries can also benefit from hybrid solutions given the inherent advantages of being able to modernise without junking their existing infrastructure first. For example, a CST system can operate during the day, a small gas-based backup system can support peak loads, and induction coils can provide heat for precision processes. The 'Miraah' project in Oman offers a useful example: engineers integrated one of the world's largest concentrated solar thermal plants with an existing gas-fired industrial operation. Thus, solar energy generates steam in daytime, reducing gas consumption by nearly 80%, while the gas boilers were on standby, and for nighttime use.

The 'Solar Heat for Industrial Processes' initiatives in Spain have allowed the company Solatom to develop plug-and-play solar thermal units: pre-assembled, containerised mirror arrays that a factory can install on a roof or a small parking lot and connect directly to its existing steam network. Denmark reformed its energy market to support 'heat purchase agreements', whereby an external provider installs and maintains a CST or induction system and the factory simply buys the heat at a fixed rate, typically cheaper than gas. Such solutions substantially lower the engineering costs for new adopters.

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

THE DAILY QUIZ

Friday the 13th has occupied an uneasy place between folklore, religion, popular culture and modern superstition. Test your knowledge regarding this famously 'unlucky' date

Prathmesh Kher

QUESTION 1: Which 14th-century historical event is often linked to the superstition surrounding Friday the 13th?

QUESTION 2: What specific term refers to the fear of Friday the 13th itself?

QUESTION 3: Which calendar condition must occur for a Friday the 13th to appear in a particular month?

QUESTION 4: What is the maximum number of Friday the 13ths that can occur in a single year?

QUESTION 5: In the Gregorian calendar cycle, how many times can Friday the 13th occur in a 400-year period?

Visual Question: What is the name of the masked killer who became the central figure of the Friday the 13th horror franchise?
WARNER BROS

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The duration of the Dandi March. **Ans: 24 days**
2. It was done to resist the tax imposed on this commodity. **Ans: Salt**
3. The start and end points of this march. **Ans: Sabarmati and Dandi**
4. Another name for this march, owing to the fact that all the people were joining the procession wearing white Khadi. **Ans: White Flowing River**
5. The culmination of the Dandi March led to this eventual consequence. **Ans: Civil disobedience movement**
Visual: Identify this march, parallely held by C. Rajagopalachari, the coast where it was held. **Ans: Vedaranyam salt march, east coast**
Early birds: Arun Kumar Singh | K.N. Viswanathan | Parimal Das | Sudhir Thapa| C. Saravanan

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

"Do you want to have a lollipop?"
"A lollipop? Wouldn't mind having one, actually. I haven't had one in a long, long time. By the way, why is a lollipop called a lollipop?"
"I read somewhere that the word 'lolly' means 'tongue' in some dialects of British English."
"That makes sense. When children eat a lollipop, they keep rubbing it against their tongue. Sometimes they just keep rolling it around and..."
"....That's right! And as they roll it around in the mouth, they make all kinds of sounds with their lips."
"The lips make a popping noise!"
"Exactly! And that's why a 'lollipop' is called a 'lollipop'."
"That makes a lot of sense, actually. I think I understand why...."
"....By the way, the word 'lolly' means 'candy' in some dialects of English."
"That's interesting. I understand you have a new Accounts Officer. How is he?
"My boss thinks that he isn't up to speed."
"Up to speed? You mean he is rather old and doesn't do things quickly?"
"No! No! When you say that someone's performance isn't 'up to speed', it means it isn't satisfactory."
"In other words, the performance is below the expected standard."
"Precisely! 'Up to speed' is an informal expression "
"The expression is usually used in the negative."
"I see. Can I say, during the test series against New Zealand, our bowling wasn't up to speed?"
"A lot of people would agree with you."
"I doubt if Tendulkar would. He, in fact, praised our...."
"...There are always exceptions. The State government is planning to get rid of all those teachers whose work hasn't been up to speed."
"My Physics teacher's work hasn't been up to speed. Can I say that?"
"You can. The expression 'not up to scratch' means more or less the same as 'not up to speed'. For example, my Physics teacher's work isn't up to scratch."
"Here's another example. Something is wrong with Sujatha. Her recent work hasn't been up to scratch."
"That's not what I hear. She told me the other day that all her teachers were really happy with her. Even the Principal..."
"....I know! I know! Ever since she won the first prize in the debate, she has become the flavour of the month."
"....flavour of the month? That...."
"...When you say that someone is the flavour of the month, it means that he/she has become very popular."
"Flavour of the month! Reminds me of ice cream. When you walk into an ice cream parlour, the man tells you to buy a particular variety because it is the flavour of the month."
"Very good. And that's exactly where the expression comes from. It comes from shopkeepers who sell pastries and ice cream."
"Justin Langer is the flavour of the month in Australia. Can I say that?"
"I guess you could. He batted really well against Pakistan, didn't he?"
"Yes, he did. And what a fantastic match it was."
Published in The Hindu on November 30, 1999

Word of the day

Abstruse:
incomprehensible to one of ordinary understanding or knowledge

Synonyms: deep, recondite

Usage: *The professor's lectures were so abstruse that students tended to avoid them.*

Pronounciation:
https://newsth.live/E8Vonh

International Phonetic Alphabet: /əb'stuːs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Beer sales drop by 14.59%; decline due to Andhra excise policy and weather

'The State has generated ₹37,531 cr. in excise revenue, which is about ₹4,000 cr. short of the target set for the current financial year'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government on Thursday acknowledged a decline in liquor sales in the State, attributing the drop in beer sales to the new excise policy in Andhra Pradesh, as well as heavy rains and colder weather conditions in some districts.

Replying to a question from Congress member Nagaraj Yadav in the Legislative Council, Floor leader N.S. Boseraju answered on behalf of the Excise Minister. He said that as per the latest figures,

N.S. Boseraju

the State had generated ₹37,531 crore in excise revenue, which is about ₹4,000 crore short of the target set for the current financial year. "Compared to the previous year, beer sales have declined by 14.59% as of January-end in 2025-26," he said.

Mr. Boseraju said the government had constituted a Resource Mobilisation Committee to analyse the current tax structure and suggest measures to improve revenue collection. Further steps will be taken after examining the committee's recommendations, he added.

He said the new excise policy in Andhra Pradesh had affected liquor sales in border districts such as Kolar, Chickballapur, Tumakuru, Chitradurga, Ballari, and Raichur, as fewer customers from neighbouring States were travelling to Karnataka to purchase liquor. In some districts, excess rainfall and unusually cold weather had contributed to the decline in beer consumption, he said.

The government has also taken steps to curb the illegal transportation of liquor from Goa. The Excise Department has established three permanent excise checkposts in border areas, and vehicles travelling on highways are being inspected. Staff at these checkposts are rotated every 15 days to ensure effective enforcement, Mr. Boseraju said.

He added that arrack production, sale, and consumption are permitted in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, and steps are being taken to prevent its entry into Karnataka. Public awareness campaigns are also being conducted in villages and wards about the harmful effects of consuming arrack mixed with chloral hydrate (CH) powder, which is reportedly available in those States.

Vehicle and person checks in border areas have been intensified to prevent such substances from entering the State, he added.

Cabinet clears Eva Nammava Eva Nammava Bill

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Cabinet on Thursday cleared The Karnataka Freedom of Choice in Marriage and Prevention and Prohibition of Crimes in the name of Honour and Tradition (Eva Nammava Eva Nammava) Bill, 2026.

The decision came at a Cabinet meeting late on Thursday night, and is likely to be placed in the ongoing Budget session of the legislature.

Sources said that the Bill had come with certain modifications from the previous one. The Cabinet also cleared the Advertisement Policy, 2026. The State Cabinet also cleared the decks for a new international stadium to be built at Surya Nagar 4th Phase in Anekal taluk.

While the initial plan was to build KHB Surya Sports Village on 75 acres at the cost of ₹1,980 crore, the Cabinet decided to go ahead with only the stadium project.

The State government conceived the concept of the new stadium after the tragic stampede in front of the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium during the RCB's maiden IPL victory celebrations in which 11 persons lost their lives.

Citizens urge authorities to expedite BSRP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A group of citizens has urged authorities to accelerate work on the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP), the long-awaited public transport initiative.

Members of Citizens for Citizens met the Managing Director of Rail Infrastructure Development Company (Karnataka) Limited, Lakshman Singh, on Thursday and submitted a letter calling for work to be taken up on a "war-footing", particularly on Corridor 1 connecting the city centre and the Kempegowda International Airport.

According to the group, the suburban rail project had been in discussion for nearly four decades before getting the approval. However, on-ground progress remains slow.

They noted that the construction of the Corridor 1, the 40-km stretch, had not begun even 65 months after sanction.

Industry bodies seek clarity from State govt. on gig workers' welfare fee

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

As Karnataka is expected to implement the proposed 1% welfare fee on payouts to gig workers effective from April 5, industry bodies have written to the State government expressing concerns about the lack of clarity around the same.

The Karnataka Act mandates a welfare fee of 1% to 5% on payouts made by aggregators to gig workers within Karnataka. FILE PHOTO

'Schemes not specified'

IndiaTech.org, an industry association representing Indian start-ups and technology companies, and the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) have written to the government. Rameesh Kailasam, CEO and president of IndiaTech.org, told *The Hindu*, "Karnataka has not clarified in the Act where the money collected will get deployed,"

He added that many aggregators already provide insurance coverage to gig workers through different insurance providers, and, therefore, platforms need clarity on what the government would cover so they can adjust their existing coverage accordingly.

Echoing similar sentiments, a communique from IAMAI noted that commencing mandatory welfare fee contribution without corresponding operational State schemes would risk an unavoidable duplication of financial obligations, and may compel aggregators to discontinue existing private insurance coverage, resulting in unintended gaps in protection for gig workers. The associations stated that there are disconnects between the Code on Social Security (CoSS) notified by the Union government and the Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Act, 2025.

Welfare of gig workers

The CoSS mandates that every aggregator contributes between 1% and 2% of its annual turnover towards the social security of gig and platform workers.

The Karnataka Act mandates a welfare fee of 1% to 5% on payouts made by aggregators to gig workers within Karnataka. Mr. Kailasam noted that while the Karnataka Act states that welfare fee payments made by aggregators would be counted towards the contribution that they are required to pay under the CoSS, the Centre has not clarified its position on the same.

"Social security and welfare of gig workers is important. But right now, it is a triangular conflict, and it could lead to chaos in terms of compliance. So, we have also written to the Centre seeking clarity regarding notification of rules," he said.

IAMAI too noted that in the absence of clarity, aggregators may effectively be put under duplicative obligations.

The associations sought to defer implementation of the welfare fee until welfare schemes under the Act are notified, and clarity is provided on how obligations under the Karnataka Act will align with those under CoSS.

KSRTC wins national award for innovation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has received the Governance Now 12th PSU National Award in the "Excellence in Innovation" category for its "Dhwani Spandana" initiative aimed at assisting visually impaired passengers.

The "Dhwani Spandana, Onboard Bus Identification and Navigation System" has been implemented in 200 Mysuru City Transport buses with support from GIZ Germany. "The system helps visually impaired passengers identify buses and navigate their journey more independently, significantly reducing their dependence on others," according to officials. They added that the initiative has improved the confidence, safety, and freedom of mobility for visually impaired commuters.

High Court orders judicial magistrate probe into Hubballi encounter death

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has ordered an inquiry by a judicial magistrate into the death of a migrant worker in a police encounter in Hubballi on April 13, 2025 after he was arrested on charges of allegedly raping and murdering a five-year-old girl.

A Division Bench, comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Poonacha, passed the interim order on a PIL petition filed by the People's Union of Civil Liberties (PUCL), Karnataka.

Ritesh Kumar, 35, a migrant worker from Bihar, was shot dead after he allegedly tried to strangle a woman police constable while trying to escape from police custody.

The court on April 15, 2025 directed the State government to follow scrupulously the guidelines issued by the Supreme Court in 2014 regarding the deaths of accused/suspected persons in police encounters. However, it was argued on behalf of the petitioner that a separate first information report (FIR) should have been registered on the incident of death in the encounter by naming the police officers/ personnel involved in the encounter, in addition to the FIR registered against the accused person, and a judicial inquiry into the death in encounter should be conducted as per apex court's 2014 guidelines.

Advocate-General K. Shashi Kiran Shetty told the Bench that the State government had no objection to conduct a judicial inquiry, while pointing out that the government did refer the case for conduct of an inquiry by a judicial magistrate, but the reference was rejected due to misreading of the apex court's guidelines.

The Advocate-General, however, said that there was no need to register a separate FIR or naming the police officers/ personnel in the FIR as the incident of encounter was officially recorded and the investigation into the cause of death of the accused person while in the police custody was referred to the Criminal Investigation Department. "There is no cavil that an inquiry be conducted by a judicial magistrate," the Bench observed on noting the apex court's guidelines.

The Bench also said that the judicial magistrate concerned should bear in mind the guidelines issued by the National Human Rights Commission for conducting an inquiry in cases of death in custody or in the course of police action. The report of the inquiry by the judicial magistrate has to be submitted to the court on June 8, the next date of hearing on the petition.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, MAR. 13		
RISE	06:28	SET 18:30
RISE	02:03	SET 13:31
SATURDAY, MAR. 14		
RISE	06:28	SET 18:30
RISE	02:52	SET 14:25
SUNDAY, MAR. 15		
RISE	06:27	SET 18:30
RISE	03:39	SET 15:19

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	20
Mysuru	33	18
Bengaluru	33	20

Bengaluru Today
32°C The weather will be dry. Day will be little warm. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
32°C Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be little warm. Night also will be slight cool.

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THE HINDU
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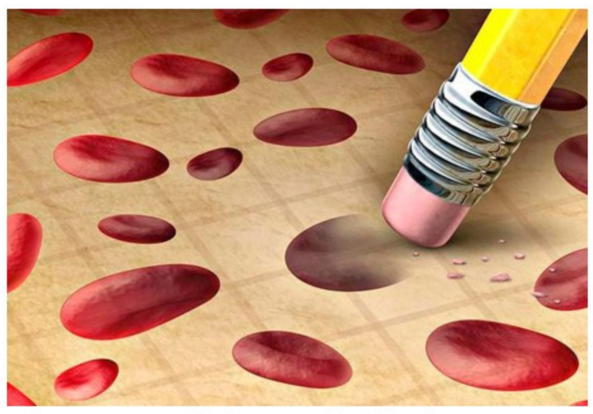
Bengaluru woman becomes life-saving stem cell donor for teenager with severe aplastic anaemia

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A young aplastic anaemia survivor, who received a second chance at life through a life-saving blood stem cell transplant, met his donor in Bengaluru on Thursday.

Nineteen-year-old Anandu received the blood stem cells from 32-year-old Swathi, a resident of Bengaluru, after being diagnosed with severe aplastic anaemia - a life-threatening blood disorder.


Aplastic anaemia is a life-threatening blood disorder. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Life-saving decision

At 15 years, when he was in 10th grade, Anandu was diagnosed with the illness. Aplastic anaemia is a life-threatening condition in which the bone marrow fails to produce enough new blood cells. Physician V.P. Krishnan, consultant, pediatric hemato-oncology and BMT, MVR Cancer Centre and Research Institute, Kozhikode, advised that he undergo a stem cell transplant as it was the only curative option.

Swathi, an IT consultant, had participated in a donor recruitment drive at her workplace in 2016, organised by DKMS Foundation, a non-profit organisation dedicated to fight against blood cancer and other blood disorders.

In 2022, she received a call from DKMS requesting that she donate her stem cells, to which she agreed. Anandu had received support through the DKMS Patient Funding Programme, India, which provides partial financial assistance to eligible patients undergoing blood stem cell transplantation.

More donors crucial

Reflecting on Anandu's journey, Dr. Krishnan said, "He underwent a matched unrelated donor hematopoietic cell transplant in early 2023. Although he experienced expected complications such as febrile neutropenia and mucositis during the transplant period, his recovery progressed well."

Today, Anandu is leading a healthy life and is preparing for his 12th board examinations.

"Anandu and Swathi's story highlights why more people need to register as potential blood stem cell donors. It is the generosity of donors like Swathi that makes life-saving transplants possible. With only 0.09% of India's eligible population currently registered as donors, the chances of finding a match remain limited," said Patrick Paul, executive chairman, DKMS, India.

He also added that in Karnataka, more than 49,000 individuals have registered as potential blood stem cell donors with the DKMS Foundation India. Bengaluru alone accounts for approximately 38,000 registered donors.

Individuals between 18 and 55 years of age, in good general health, with a BMI under 40, and not already registered are eligible to sign up as potential blood stem cell donors.

Register at https://www.dkms-india.org/register-now

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Work on Pink and Blue Lines of Namma metro is in various stages in Bengaluru. Beyond costs and fares, experts say the choice of routes in the early phases of the metro project created long-term challenges. K. MURALI KUMAR

Cost escalation and delays haunt Bengaluru metro

Bengaluru has India's second largest metro network, with around 96 km of operational track and 83 stations. ***Darshan Devaiah B.P.*** argues that this key transport project, built at a cost of ₹67,460 crore so far, needs to keep deadlines to be cost effective and serve the public better

Every day my journey to work feels like a puzzle with too many pieces," says Hastha Shetty, a resident of Hulimavu in south Bengaluru. "I take an auto from my home to Jayadeva station, board the Yellow Line, change to the Green Line at R.V. Road, change again at Majestic to the Purple Line, get down at Cubbon Park, and then take another auto to reach my office on Lavelle Road. It takes me nearly one hour and 50 minutes. If I book a cab from home, I can reach in about 50 minutes. I keep wondering, what exactly is the purpose of the metro if it cannot make daily commute easier?"

For Shetty, who has been working in a private firm in Bengaluru's central business district for the past four years, the metro was supposed to be the solution to the city's notorious traffic congestion. Instead, her commute has become an example of the challenges many residents face while navigating the city's expanding but still incomplete metro network.

"I have been waiting for the Pink Line for almost five years. When it becomes operational, I can travel directly towards M.G. Road from Bannerghatta Road without all these changes. But the project keeps getting delayed. The metro has not yet expanded across the city in a way that truly serves commuters. Then how has it already become the most expensive metro system in the country?" she questions.

Her questions reflect a wider debate around the Namma Metro which has become both one of India's largest and costliest urban rail projects, even as concerns persist over ridership, connectivity and planning priorities.

A costly network with limited reach

Today, Bengaluru has India's second-largest metro network, with around 96 km of operational track and 83 stations. As much as ₹67,460 crore has already been spent on building this infrastructure across multiple phases.

Urban mobility experts argue that the problem lies not merely in delays or costs, but in how the metro system was planned.

Senior transport expert M.N. Srihari says the network presents a paradox. "Bengaluru today has India's most expensive metro system, yet it remains among the most underutilised. When the metro was first proposed, the promise was that it would significantly reduce congestion and encourage people to shift from private vehicles to public transport. But despite spending thousands of crores, Bengaluru's traffic still ranks among the worst in the world."

According to Srihari, the primary issue lies in route prioritisation and planning gaps. "In many cases, the metro lines were built first in areas where demand was comparatively lower, while major employment corridors like Outer Ring Road had to wait for years. Public transport infrastructure must follow commuter demand. Instead, what we saw was a mismatch between where people travel daily like Electronics City or Outer Ring Road and where the metro lines were initially laid like the M.G. Road, Malleswaram, Basavanagudi Jayanagar," he explains. "When commuters cannot access the metro from their homes or workplaces, they simply continue using their cars or two-wheelers," he added.

> In many cases, the metro lines were built first in areas where demand was comparatively lower, while major employment corridors like Outer Ring Road had to wait for years.
>
> **M.N. SRIHARI,** TRANSPORT EXPERT

Another major issue, he says, is the lack of seamless first- and last-mile connectivity. "Even today, reaching many metro stations requires multiple modes of transport: autos, buses, or long walks. If commuters have to change trains twice and then take another auto to reach their workplace, the metro loses its advantage. Public transport must reduce travel time and complexity, not add to it."

Evidence supporting this argument emerged from a study conducted by the Bengaluru Political Action Committee (B-PAC) in 2023 titled #Personal2Public. The survey found that 95% of private vehicle users in Bengaluru said they would be willing to shift to the metro if reliable last-mile connectivity was available.

The findings suggested that improving feeder services, pedestrian access, cycling infrastructure, and bus connectivity could dramatically increase ridership. However, even as such connectivity challenges remain unresolved, metro fares have been revised upward last year.

Several routes witnessed sharp fare increases, in some cases up to 100%, raising concerns that it could discourage new riders.

Cost escalation across phases

Major criticism relates to the rapid escalation in project costs across different phases of the metro. A retired official of the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), speaking on condition of anonymity, explained how expenses increased significantly over time.

According to the official, Phase 1 of Namma Metro, covering 42.3 km, initially had a sanctioned cost of ₹6,395 crore in 2005. By the time the project was completed in 2017, the final expenditure had risen to approximately ₹14,405 crore, more than a 100% increase.

The escalation is attributed to construction delays, technical challenges during underground tunnelling, design changes, and route extensions. The pattern continued with Phase 2, which originally had a budget of ₹26,405 crore and was expected to be completed by 2019. However, the project has seen its cost rise to ₹40,425 crore, an increase of more than 53%.

"Delays in construction, inflation in raw material prices, increased land acquisition costs, and interest payments on foreign loans have all contributed to the rise in costs," the official said. Another significant component of metro expenditure is rolling stock, the trains themselves. "In Phase 1, about 150 coaches were procured at a cost of roughly ₹1,600 crore," the official said. "For Phase 3, the system will require around 318 coaches, and the cost of procurement alone could exceed ₹3,000 crore."

A large portion of the funding for Bengaluru Metro has come through international loans. Financial assistance has been extended by institutions such as the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Asian Development Bank, the European Investment Bank, and KfW Development Bank of Germany.

Mr. Srihari says this financing structure, given interest and repayment obligations, makes it even more important to ensure that the metro operates efficiently and attracts a high number of users. "When projects are financed largely through loans, delays automatically increase financial pressure because interest keeps accumulating. If construction timelines are extended by several years, the final project cost can rise dramatically," he says.

He also suggests that metro agencies should adopt innovative revenue models to reduce dependence on fares and debt. "Globally, metro systems rely heavily on Land Value Capture (LVC) mechanisms. When a metro line is built, property values around stations increase significantly. Governments can capture a portion of that increase through development charges, commercial leasing, transit-oriented development, and better utilisation of station areas. If such strategies are implemented effectively, they can help offset construction costs and keep commuter fares affordable."

Bengaluru Metro is not only expensive to build, it is also among the costliest metro systems for commuters in India. Recent fare revisions have increased the cost of several routes, drawing criticism from passenger groups.

Transport experts warn that higher fares could discourage potential users, especially when last-mile connectivity remain unresolved. "Public transport must remain economically attractive compared to private vehicles. If fares keep rising while convenience remains limited, commuters will simply continue using their cars or bikes," said Krishna Prasad, a Bengaluru-based metro and railway activist.

The planning gap

Beyond costs and fares, experts say the choice of routes in the early phases of the metro project created long-term challenges. The construction of Namma Metro began in 2007, and the first operational stretch opened in 2011. Over the years, new corridors were gradually added.

However, many of the city's largest employment centres were not included in the early phases. This planning gap became evident when the Purple Line was extended to Whitefield in 2023. The extension immediately resulted in a ridership increase of around 2.5 to 3 lakh passengers per day, according to BMRCL data.

A similar trend was observed after the Yellow Line connecting Electronics City opened in August 2025, with daily ridership crossing 60,000 passengers within weeks. These increases suggested that metro connectivity to major employment hubs significantly boosts usage.

Yet another critical corridor the Outer Ring Road (ORR), which houses some of Bengaluru's largest technology parks is expected to receive operational metro connectivity only by 2027.

Rajkumar Dugar, founder of the citizen group Citizens for Citizens (C4C), believes that planning decisions may have been influenced by political considerations rather than commuter demand.

Dugar said that the Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA) was created precisely to prevent ad-hoc political interference in large transport projects. "The whole idea behind BMLTA is to have a single empowered body that evaluates transport proposals and decides what is in the best interest of the city. Unfortunately, the authority has not been fully empowered yet, and we continue to see politicians directly intervening in projects and pushing for route changes or extensions in their constituencies," he said.

"Whenever such interventions happen after a project has already been sanctioned, it leads to unnecessary proposals, design revisions and delays. Ideally, any proposal or suggestion must be placed before BMLTA, and the authority should decide whether to approve or reject it based on technical and mobility considerations. Politicians should approach the BMLTA rather than directly interfering in execution," he added.

A retired official associated with the metro project said, "Elected representatives begin lobbying for metro connectivity in their constituencies. Naturally, every politician wants the metro to reach their area first because it is seen as a major development project. But when such pressures influence planning, the alignment and prioritisation of corridors can change. Ideally, routes should be designed purely on the basis of commuter demand, population density, and travel patterns. When political considerations override, it can lead to delays, revisions in project design, and sometimes even inefficient route selection," the official explained.

Meanwhile, despite the expansion of the metro network, Bengaluru's traffic congestion remains severe. The latest TomTom Traffic Index ranked the city among the most congested urban areas in the world. Data from the Karnataka Transport Department shows that the number of registered vehicles in Bengaluru increased from around one crore in 2020-21 to nearly 1.23 crore by April 2025.

Much of this growth has occurred alongside the concentration of employment in a few major clusters particularly Electronics City, the Whitefield-ITPL corridor, and the 17-km Outer Ring Road technology belt.

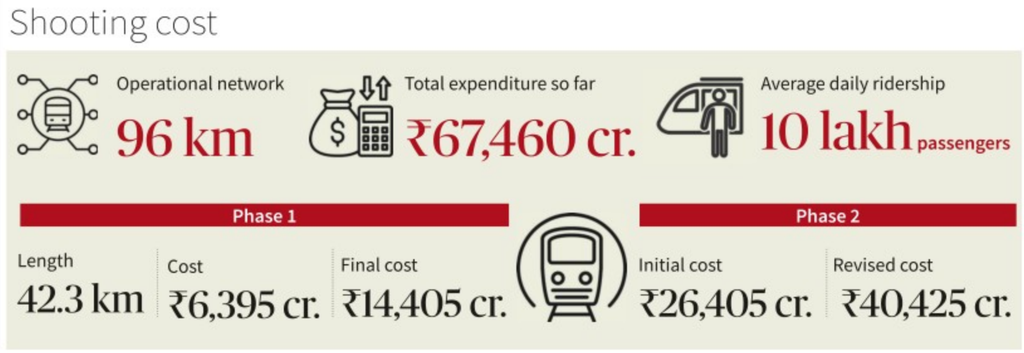
Delays due to challenges

Officials from the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) acknowledge that the project has faced challenges, but say steps are being taken to improve efficiency and expand coverage. A senior BMRCL official said that cost escalation is common in large infrastructure projects due to multiple external factors.

"Metro construction in a dense city like Bengaluru involves complex engineering challenges, especially during underground tunnelling and land acquisition. Delays can occur due to geological conditions, shifting utilities, legal disputes, and coordination with multiple agencies. These factors sometimes extend timelines and increase costs," the official said.

"We are increasingly tracking construction progress, manage equipment, and ensure better coordination between contractors," the official added. BMRCL says future phases of the metro will focus more on connectivity to employment hubs, integration with bus networks, and improved last-mile services.

Shooting cost



When the sizzle goes silent Commercial LPG is the backbone of a restaurant kitchen. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK, PTI AND R RAVINDRAN

Why are dosas off the menu?

With commercial LPG supply restricted across India, restaurants are rationing fuel, trimming menus and shortening hours. As they fight to stay open, what will eating out look like this weekend?

Anagha Maareesha
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"Only coffee and tea today," says a sign taped to the counter at Bangalore Thindis on Bengaluru's Infantry Road, which normally bustles with customers. In Coimbatore, Annapoorna Hotel has taken rava dosas off the menu. At Kaylir Canteen in Chennai, co-founder Dhanya Srinath explains their shorter menu on Instagram saying, "We are trying to be a space that never pauses operations during situations like this... the options will be limited, but it will be yummy."

"We have absolutely no supply of LPG cylinders," says Chef Tresa Francis who runs Coracle in Bengaluru. She adds, "I am redoing my menu in the next couple of days. We are looking at more induction cooking. Because I have the luxury of space I am preparing to use wood fire cooking for the bulk orders."

She is not alone. Hoteliers, chefs and restauranteurs are in firefighting mode as they figure out how to make their existing fuel last for as long as possible and customers fed, till there is clarity on how to move forward.

The conflict in West Asia continues, and its effects can be felt in cities across India. On Monday (March 9, 2026), LPG cylinder supply was restricted in several cities. The Bangalore Hotels Association put out a notice saying that if the supply is not resumed, hotels may have to shut down.

The effect is being felt all over the country. Zorawar Kalra, founder, Massive Restaurants, which runs brands such as Masala Library, Pa Pa Ya and Farzi Cafe explains that commercial LPG is the backbone of kitchen operations across India, and any disruption threatens the continuity of food service for millions.

He adds, "The restaurant industry is a ₹6.6-lakh-crore ecosystem and a major employer, and it is critical that policy clarity ensures uninterrupted LPG supply to keep kitchens running. A single day's lack of supply will cost the industry and the economy between 1,200-1,300 crores as 70-75% of the ecosystem relies on LPG."

Although prices have been moving upwards for the past two weeks, by an estimated 40%, according to Chennai-based Japtej Ahluwalia, co-founder, BORN (Beyond Ordinary Restaurants and Nosh) and a managing committee member, NRAI (National Restaurant Association of India), they were managing to source cylinders. For the past few days cylinders were available for about double the market price, but now though restaurants are willing to buy them even at inflated rates, all sources seem to have dried up.

"We paid ₹4,100 for a 13 kilogramme domestic cylinder. Otherwise we pay ₹1,900 for an 18 kilogramme commercial use cylinder," says a restauranteur. Another tells us they paid ₹5000.

Is induction an alternative?

Santhosh Zachariah, of Chennai's speakeasy MadCo, which usually opens at noon, says they are now only opening for dinner to conserve their LPG cylinders and cutting dishes that require higher flames, and longer cook times. The bar bought induction cookers overnight and is now figuring where to set them up so they can keep running.

Naga Bharan who spearheads five outlets of Panchakattu Dosa across Hyderabad is unenthusiastic about induction. "The change requires a complete overhaul in infrastructure, including our electrical work."

Wherever possible, equipment swaps are also being explored. Japtej says they are replacing burger griddles that run on gas with electric equipment which they are temporarily renting. "Alternatives like this are however feasible only for select equipment," he adds.

Changes on the menu

Businesses are also looking at temporarily tweaking their menu. Sampath T of Spicy Venue in Hyderabad, who is also a member of NRAI, says, "While biryani cannot be skipped, we are looking at stir-fried in place of deep-fried Indian side dishes for the time being. Switching to induction is not an immediate full-time solution since it would require changes in infrastructure and trial runs to get the required flavours for Indian dishes."

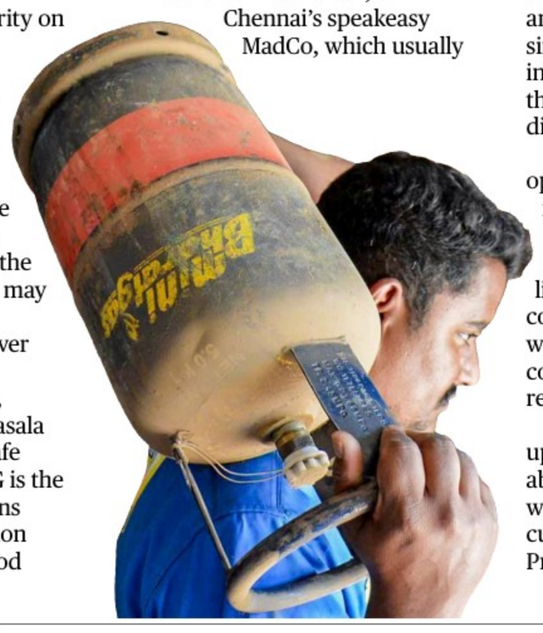
Japtej says, "We are working on optimising menus across restaurants; high gas consumption items such as Asian woks and pizzas are being limited. Our focus is on conserving our gas reserves for weekend operations which contribute to nearly 40% of our revenue."

While running costs are going up, right now, most restaurants are absorbing the difference in prices without passing them on to customers. Vinay Gopal Manik Pradeep, manager, Mana Biryani Vindu in Visakhapatnam, says "We would rather shut down than increase prices. We are planning to make only biryanis for now and stop serving fried items."

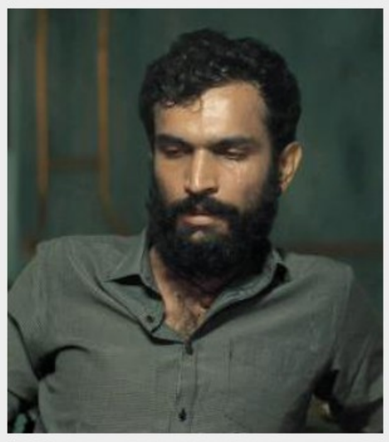
In Coimbatore, the iconic Annapoorna hotel's rava onion dosas are already off the menu, along with parottas. "If I remove dosa, sambar and coffee from the menu, it would cause more inconvenience to the public," says Jegan S Damodarasamy, CEO, of Annapoorna Hotels.

He adds, "When metro cities like Bengaluru have shut restaurants already, for tier II cities it is even more challenging. This is the first time in our 58 years that we have not served dosas in the afternoon."

– With inputs from ***Prabalika M Borah, S Poorvaja , K Jeshi, Barry Rodgers,*** *and* ***Nivedita Ganguly***



Rise of the short



Adithya Prakash's Kannada mid-length thriller *Watch Out Krishna* mixes sharp humour with subtle yet relatable social commentary

Game changer Adithya Prakash in *Watch Out Krishna*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Vivek MV
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The healthy practice of screening short films on the big screen is growing in Bengaluru. Up-and-coming filmmakers are enthusiastic about showcasing their work to movie buffs and industry professionals. Adithya Prakash is one such filmmaker.

His one-hour long Kannada film, *Watch Out Krishna*, is a big step towards his ambition of becoming a director who makes "audience films". The term is not hard to understand when you watch Adithya's comedy thriller that blends auteurist artistry with entertainment. The film, with impressive music from Navaneeth Sham, was recently screened at the Suchitra Cinema and Cultural Academy.

A trained actor, Adithya wanted to write a film to explore his performing abilities. As he worked on a three-act structure, the story took precedence and acting took a back seat. From a nosy house owner and an amusing car lover to the real estate boom in Mysuru, colourful people and real scenarios propelled his script.

"The biggest motivation to write *Watch Out Krishna* was the opening scene of Quentin Tarantino's *Inglourious Basterds*. The intensity of the scene is inexplicable," he says. A road rage incident in his childhood stayed with Adithya for years, and has made it into the script of the film as well.

He admires Anurag Kashyap and Malayalam cinema's Dileesh Pothan from India. If there is one film he keeps revisiting, it is Raam Reddy's acclaimed rural, slice-of-life Kannada comedy, *Thithi* (2015). "Every time I watch it, I find something new. The film's biggest strength is its realistic portrayal of greed and grief."

Watch Out Krishna too has a subtle commentary on materialism. The consistent tongue-in-cheek humour is a plus, further enhanced by Punith Belaghatta's striking performance. "I am naturally drawn towards dark humour," says Adithya. Kannada star 'Daali' Dhananjaya, who released the movie on his YouTube channel Daali Pictures, describes *Watch Out Krishna* as a "Sriram Raghavan" thriller. "Dhananjaya liked the fact that the curiosity factor is intact throughout the movie."

A Mysuru boy, Adithya, who recently moved to Bengaluru, is a cybersecurity engineer. It's a classic case of an IT guy's passion for storytelling. "My weekends are dedicated to filmmaking," says Adithya, who produced *Watch Out Krishna* with his friends. "We had to be economical. It was like walking on a tightrope."

Watch Out Krishna is currently available on Daali Pictures YouTube channel

STEPOUT

Art for all

Kalashaala, a budding initiative dedicated to giving emerging artists a platform to showcase their work is hosting Rangat. This art exhibition, which will run from March 12 to 15, will feature as many as 110 works works of art by around 35 artists from Bengaluru. *At Rangoli metro art centre, Vismaya Gallery, till March 15 Entry free.*

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Adulteration found in 3,049 milk samples supplied to dairies in State, says govt.

Among the districts, Hassan recorded the highest number of adulterated samples at 788, followed by Ballari (588), Shivamogga (434), Mandya (418), and Kalaburagi (315)

IN THE LEGISLATURE

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

N.S. Boseraju

Adulteration was detected in 3,049 milk samples supplied to dairies in Karnataka during the one year from January 2025 to January this year, Floor leader N.S. Boseraju informed the Legislative Council on behalf of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday.

Replying to a question by Congress member Madhu G. Made Gowda, he said that during the period, 15,15,575 milk samples were collected by 19 milk unions and units across the State for testing.

Among the districts, Hassan recorded the highest number of adulterated samples at 788, followed by Ballari (588), Shivamogga (434), Mandya (418), and Kalaburagi (315). In a written reply, the House was informed that adulteration had been detected in milk supplied by the private company Dodla Dairy.

At the same time, no cases of adulteration were detected in samples collected from Kolar, Chickballapur, Dakshina Kannada, Nandini Hi-Tech Product Plant at Channarayapatna, Nandini Hi-Tech Mega Powder Plant at Kanva, Ramanagara, and Mother Dairy.

No cases filed

Despite milk adulteration being an offence punishable with a minimum of three months' imprisonment and up to life imprisonment, no criminal cases have been registered against those supplying adulterated milk to dairies, the Floor leader said.

Instead, when adulteration is detected in milk supplied to milk producers' cooperative societies affiliated to district milk unions, the milk is rejected, and the producers are counselled and warned to prevent recurrence. Officials make periodic visits to such societies and conduct further testing.

Salt and sugar found

In several instances, salt and sugar were found to have been mixed with milk supplied by producers to primary milk producers' cooperative societies.

To detect adulteration, testing kits have been provided to all primary milk producers' cooperative societies, and milk received from these societies is also subjected to multiple tests at the dairy level before being accepted.

The Minister added that the Karnataka Milk Federation has constituted a vigilance team to monitor milk sold under the Nandini milk brand. If adulteration is detected in milk sold under the brand, a police complaint will be lodged, he said.

Govt. considering cash compensation for UKP-III oustees: Shivakumar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar speaking in the Legislative Council in Bengaluru on Thursday.

The State government is considering providing monetary compensation instead of rehabilitation to families likely to be displaced under the third stage of the Upper Krishna Project (UKP-III), Deputy Chief Minister and Water Resources Minister D.K. Shivakumar said in the Legislative Council on Thursday.

Replying to a proposal raised by BJP member Hanumantha Nirani on providing additional basic facilities and rehabilitation to families affected by the project, Mr. Shivakumar said the government was concerned about the plight of people displaced by the project.

He said that after the acquisition of land for the project, some landowners had approached the courts, which had directed compensation of about ₹13 crore-₹14 crore per acre in certain cases.

As it was not feasible for the government to pay such a high amount, the State had recently decided to provide compensation of around ₹30 lakh-₹40 lakh per acre, he said.

"Instead of providing rehabilitation to each family, we are examining the possibility of giving monetary compensation. A decision will be taken after holding a meeting with public representatives and other stakeholders," the Minister said.

He added that the government was working on an alternative policy in place of rehabilitation and resettlement for villages that would be submerged in the backwaters of the Almatti reservoir under the project.

Rehabilitation centres

Mr. Shivakumar said that under the existing plan, 24 rehabilitation centres were proposed to be developed to provide basic facilities to people from 20 villages affected by submergence.

As per the new land acquisition rules, construction work was in progress at eight rehabilitation centres, he said. However, land acquisition for two centres – Kundargi and Bavalatti – had been declared invalid by a court, while acquisition of land for the remaining 13 centres was at various stages.

Earlier, BJP members P.H. Pujar and Hanumantha Nirani said that several rehabilitation centres established during the first two phases of the project lacked basic facilities such as proper roads, drinking water supply, drainage, streetlights and land for burial grounds.

They pointed out that delays in implementing the third phase had left residents in affected villages in uncertainty, preventing them from repairing their houses. Schools were not receiving adequate grants, and compensation had not yet been paid, they said, urging the government to address the issues at the earliest.

A.P. raises objections

Following the Andhra Pradesh government's opposition to Karnataka's proposal to raise the height of the Almatti dam to facilitate completion of the third phase of the Upper Krishna Project (UKP), Mr. Shivakumar said he would travel to New Delhi next Tuesday along with Minister H.K. Patil to hold discussions with the authorities concerned on the issue.

The Andhra Pradesh government has written to the Union government raising objections to the implementation of the UKP-III phase, stating that the storage level of the Almatti dam should not be increased and that no further land acquisition or project work should be taken up.

Daytime trekking allowed till Shesha Parvatha in Subramanya, says Khandre

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister Eshwar Khandre speaking in the Assembly in Bengaluru on Thursday.

Trekking has been restricted to Shesha Parvatha in Subramanya in the Dakshina Kannada district, and trekkers are not being allowed to proceed to Kumara Parvatha to ensure that the trek is completed within 12 hours (6 a.m. to 6 p.m.) with all safety measures, Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar B. Khandre told the Legislative Assembly on Thursday.

Those wishing to trek to Shesha Parvatha must purchase tickets online, and only 150 people are allowed per day. Mr. Khandre said the 20-km trek (both ways) between Subramanya and Shesha Parvatha takes about 12 hours to complete during the day.

The Minister said that since December 2025, trekkers have been permitted only up to Shesha Parvatha. The 2-km stretch between Shesha Parvatha and Kumara Parvatha is steep and challenging, and hence trekking to Kumara Parvatha has been stopped.

He said overnight stays have been banned following reports of wildlife movement and incidents of trekkers going missing during the night.

Replying to a question from Bhagirathi Murulya (BJP), Mr Khandre said it was difficult to manage crowds of 2,000-3,000 trekkers gathering at one location on the hill in a single day, especially in an area known for wildlife movement. As a safety measure, only 150 people are permitted to trek daily during the rainy season. Trekking is not allowed during the summer due to the risk of forest fires.

Referring to the distance between Subramanya and Kumara Parvatha, he said the 24-km trek (both ways) would normally take two days, and trekkers earlier stayed overnight at Kumara Parvatha to watch the sunset and sunrise. It may be noted that many trekkers have expressed disappointment on social media about not being able to experience sunrise and sunset from the hilltop after the restrictions.

Following wildlife movement and to ensure trekkers' safety, a decision was taken to ban overnight stays from June 5, 2024. The Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Fund Committee, chaired by the Chief Conservator of Forests of the Kodagu Circle, decided to prohibit night stays at Kumara Parvatha.

The distance between Subramanya and Kumara Parvatha is 12 km (one side), and since December 2025, trekking has been restricted to Shesha Parvatha to ensure that trekkers return the same day within the 12-hour window.

Trekking begins at 6 a.m. and ends at 6 p.m. To handle emergencies, one response team has been deployed at the Subramanya check-post and two teams at the Beedalli check-post to provide first aid and drinking water, he said.

Bhagirathi Murulya, who represents the Sulya constituency, demanded that trekking be allowed to start at 5.30 a.m. instead of 6 a.m. and that all trekkers be permitted to begin from Devaragadde in Subramanya. Currently, trekkers who reach Devaragadde after 10.30 a.m. are not allowed to continue the trek, she said.

Safari

In response to the Leader of the Opposition, R. Ashok, on the resumption of safari operations at Bandipur Forest, Mr. Khandre said the decision was taken following recommendations by the Wildlife Board headed by the Chief Minister. More forest staff and safari vehicles have been deployed in the region to prevent wildlife-human conflicts following the deaths of people in tiger attacks. The number of tigers has increased to 175 from 12 in 1972, he said.

However, the department had incurred a loss of ₹6 crore-₹8 crore following the ban, the Minister said.

Health Dept. is sick, says BJP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

R. Ashok

The Opposition BJP on Thursday criticised Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao over the functioning of his department, alleging poor delivery of health services due to shortage of medicines and doctors.

Seeking to move an adjournment motion in the Legislative Assembly, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok remarked that "the Health Minister is healthy, but his department is sick". Senior BJP member C.N. Ashwath Narayan described the situation in the State as a "medical emergency".

Mr. Ashok alleged that the shortage of medicines had caused widespread problems across the State and claimed that the government was planning to close 270 primary health centres (PHCs). He said doctors currently serving in these PHCs would be shifted elsewhere, leading to the absence of doctors and medicines in villages.

He referred to a statement by the government doctors' association claiming that patients were not receiving medicines on time and that shortage of doctors and poor health services had led to clashes with patients.

However, Speaker U.T. Khader decided to convert the adjournment motion into a discussion.

PHH cards

The State government informed the Legislative Assembly that it would consider revising the annual income limit used to identify Priority Household (PHH) beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act, which provides subsidised foodgrains. The current annual family income limit for PHH identification was fixed at 1.2 lakh in 2017.

Replying to Mr. Ashwath Narayan, Mr. Dinesh Gundu Rao said that nearly a decade had passed since the limit was fixed and that there was a need to review it. He was responding on behalf of Food and Civil Supplies Minister K.H. Muniyappa.

Earlier, Mr. Narayan argued that the income limit should be increased, particularly because the cost of living in Bengaluru has risen significantly. Citing provisions of the Food Security Act, he said 50% of the urban population and 75% of rural households should be covered under PHH or Antyodaya schemes. He claimed that many eligible poor households, including auto and taxi drivers, had been denied PHH cards.

Mr. Rao said PHH ration cards have been issued to 1.24 crore households in the State, compared to 1.09 crore eligible families identified by the Centre. The 50% urban coverage under the Act applies to the entire country and not statewide. In rural areas, he said, about 95% of the households is already covered.

Mr. Rao further noted that several ineligible families had obtained ration cards meant only for food distribution. However, people were using these cards to access healthcare benefits, which had increased the demand for them.

DKS: AI suggested 'Karnataka model' to win Assam polls

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday said an artificial intelligence platform had suggested that the "Karnataka model" could help win elections in Assam.

Speaking in the Legislative Council while responding to a question by BJP member Bharathi Shetty on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in governance, Mr. Shivakumar said he had experimented with AI tools during a visit to Assam in connection with elections.

"I asked an AI platform how to win the Assam elections. It said the election could be won by adopting the Karnataka model," he said, prompting a brief exchange and light-hearted remarks from the Opposition members in the House.

Mr. Shivakumar said the world was entering a new era of artificial intelligence, and the subject was being widely discussed across sectors. He noted that the Prime Minister had recently convened a major conference on AI, and courts were also deliberating on the use of such technology.

Research required

At the same time, he said the use of AI in government administration required extensive research and careful consideration before decisions could be taken.

Explaining the limitations of AI, he said information generated by such systems depends entirely on the data fed into them. "If documents of the House are scanned and uploaded into computers, only then can they become part of the digital system," he said, comparing it to how past court judgments must be uploaded before they can be accessed for reference.

Budget pushed Karnataka into debt trap: Vijayendra

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BJP leader B.Y. Vijayendra speaking in the Assembly in Bengaluru on Thursday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The BJP State chief says the Budget 'dashed the hopes of the people' and described it as a 'minority appeasement Budget'

BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra on Thursday termed the State Budget for 2026-27 a "bundle of lies" and alleged that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had pushed Karnataka into a debt trap by proposing massive borrowings in the next fiscal year.

Participating in the Budget discussion in the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Vijayendra said Mr. Siddaramaiah would go down in the political history of the State as the Chief Minister who resorted to maximum borrowings not for capital expenditure or infrastructure development, but to meet day-to-day expenses.

Mr. Siddaramaiah, he said, had achieved a "hattrick" by presenting a revenue deficit of ₹22,957 crore for 2026-27, marking the third consecutive year of revenue deficit. The budget proposes borrowings of ₹1.32 lakh crore, compared with ₹1.16 lakh crore in 2025-26, thereby missing a "golden opportunity" to pull the State back from fiscal stress. He claimed that the State's total liabilities would cross ₹8 lakh crore by the end of next year, which would further increase the burden of interest payments.

Mr. Vijayendra further alleged that delays in conducting elections to rural and urban local bodies, including city corporations in Bengaluru, had resulted in the State losing about ₹20,000 crore allocated by the 15th Finance Commission for 2021-26. "Except criticising the BJP-led government at the Centre, the Congress government in Karnataka has done nothing meaningful or concrete in terms of developmental activities," he said.

He added that the Budget had "dashed the hopes of the people" and described it as a "minority appeasement Budget" that neglected a large section of the population. By not filling vacant government posts, the government had saved ₹15,000 crore annually, but the failure to provide jobs had led to frustration among youth and protests, he said.

State expands tie-up with British Council to boost Arivu Kendras

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka's Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Department has expanded its partnership with the British Council to strengthen English language learning, library services, and knowledge access in rural areas through the State's Gram Panchayat Arivu Kendras (Knowledge Centres).

Under this expanded collaboration, the number of British Council Library Corners in Gram Panchayat Arivu Kendras will be increased from 10 to 70, with 60 additional centers being established across the state. As part of the initiative, the British Council will provide 3,000 children's English books and extend free access to its digital library resources, enabling rural readers to connect with global knowledge platforms and curated English learning content.

The expanded partnership agreement was signed on Thursday under the chairmanship of RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge and Deputy High Commissioner Chandru Iyyar, between Karnataka Panchayat Raj Commissioner Arundhathi Chandrasekhar and British Council's South India director Janaka Pushpanathan.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Priyank Kharge highlighted the importance of strengthening rural knowledge infrastructure and expanding access to English language learning for young people across the state. "Gram panchayat libraries have evolved into vibrant Arivu Kendras. During the pandemic, these libraries became critical learning spaces for children, and by offering free membership to those in the age group of 6 to 18, we have brought over 5 million young readers into this ecosystem," he said.

"For many young people in rural Karnataka, English language skills are an important pathway to higher education, employability, and social mobility. Our partnership with the British Council helps bring high-quality English learning resources, books, and digital content closer to these learners," he said.

HC bars Vellappally, other office-bearers from posts in SNDP

The directive follows findings that they acted in violation of Companies Act by failing to file audited accounts of Yogam for three consecutive years

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

SNDP Yogam general secretary Vellappally Natesan, president M.N. Soman at an event in 2014. FILE PHOTO

The Kerala High Court on Thursday disqualified general secretary of the Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana (SNDP) Yogam Vellappally Natesan and two other office-bearers from holding their posts in the organisation.

The others are M.N. Soman and Thushar Vellapally, president and vice president of the Yogam. This followed findings that they acted in violation of the Companies Act, 2013 by failing to file audited accounts of the Yogam for three consecutive years. The court directed the appointment of a new board of directors in the Yogam.

The late literary critic M.K. Sanoo and others, all members of the Aruvipuram Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam, had filed petitions alleging non-submission of financial statements of the SNDP Yogam. They had also challenged an order of the IG (Registration) which allowed them to continue in the posts.

They had also sought the appointment of an administrator for conducting free and fair election and to hand over the administration to such an elected body and declare that the Yogam has no control over the 'unions and sakhas'.

The petitioners contended that individuals who were directors of the Yogam several terms were re-elected for a five-year term in 2015 and that they continued in office even after their term expired, without conducting an annual general meeting.

The respondents argued that the Act provided a statutory remedy by way of an application before the National Company Law Tribunal and that the Yogam did not fail to file the annual returns continuously for three years.

After hearing the averments, a Bench of Justice T.R. Ravi ruled that the respondents (including Mr. Natesan) are not eligible to be re-appointed as directors in view of non-compliance with the requirements of Section 164(2) of the Companies Act.

It added that they were not holding office in accordance with the requirements of the Kerala Act concerned, read with the Companies Act, since none of them had a director identification number (DIN) issued by the State government. "They are thus declared to have vacated office under Section 167(1)(a) of the Companies Act as they are disqualified under Section 164(1)(h) of the Act," the court said.

The court directed the government to take necessary measures contemplated under Section 167(3) of the Act for appointing the required number of directors to hold office till directors are appointed by the company in the general meeting.

TTD fortifies LPG stock amid conflict

G.P. Shukla
TIRUMALA

Four tonnes of LPG goes in the production of Tirumala laddus.

Amid mounting global anxieties over energy security, triggered by the intensifying conflict in West Asia, the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) has fortified its fuel reserves, ensuring that the temple remains insulated from the effects of a potential LPG crunch.

The temple ecosystem consumes nearly six tonnes of the fuel for its daily operations. About two tonnes of LPG are used to prepare free Anna Prasadam, while four tonnes goes in the production of the famed Tirumala laddus.

TTD Additional Executive Officer Ch. Venkaiah Chowdary has written to Indian Oil Corporation, seeking uninterrupted LPG supplies for which it has responded positively. The TTD has already built a formidable buffer. It is equipped with three LPG bullet tanks, each capable of storing over 10 tonnes, along with two additional tanks of 7-tonne capacity.

Akshaya Patra shifts to biogas and diesel

Harish Gilai
VISAKHAPATNAM

Amid the West Asia crisis that has disrupted LPG supplies, the Akshaya Patra Foundation in Andhra Pradesh has ensured an uninterrupted supply of food to nearly 80,000 beneficiaries by switching to alternative energy sources.

Despite LPG shortages, its kitchens in Gambheeram and Kapparada continue feeding students covered under the Mid-Day Meal scheme, people availing meals at Anna Canteens, and patient attendants in government hospitals.

The Gambheeram kitchen prepares food for nearly 16,000 students in 147 schools using LPG, diesel and biogas.

"We have reduced the consumption of LPG from 150 kg daily to around 70 kg," a representative of the Foundation said.

Both the Kapparada and Gambheeram kitchens together provide Mid-Day Meals to 338 government schools, covering more than 47,000 students across the Visakhapatnam district.

T.N. govt. hospitals told to take measures to save gas

Serena Josephine M.
CHENNAI

Amid concerns over LPG and fuel supplies, government hospitals in the State have been instructed to take precautionary measures.

Hospitals have been asked to tweak patient meal plans by preparing diets that require shorter cooking times, while ensuring that nutritional needs are met. They were also advised to maintain adequate diesel stocks for generator operations.

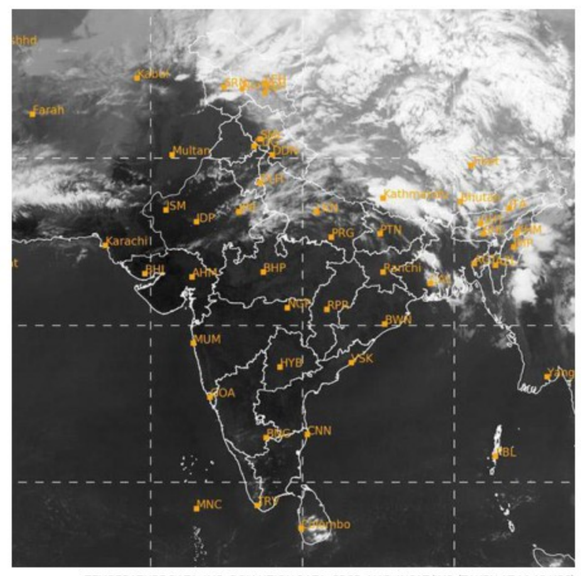
According to a health official, there are currently no issues with LPG or other fuel supplies for government health facilities. "We have asked the hospitals to prepare contingency plans - plan A, plan B and plan C. They should prepare alternative diets that require less cooking for patients and medical college students. Since medical colleges and hostels have large spaces, they can also use firewood for cooking. We have also asked them to explore electric appliances for large-scale cooking," he said.

The institutions were also asked to check if there is any industrial kitchen equipment, such as steam boilers, for possible procurement, he added.

Officials said committees were being constituted to plan patient diets, while discussions would be held with the respective student councils for their meals.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim and West Bengal. Heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and Konkan & Goa. Hot and humid weather likely at isolated places over coastal Karnataka, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	31.4	23.4	Kozhikode	—	35.6	26.5
Ahmedabad	—	38.9	23.2	Kurnool	—	39.6	21.8
Aizawl	—	32.5	17.1	Lucknow	—	35.3	19.1
Allahabad	—	37.0	18.4	Madurai	—	38.0	23.6
Bengaluru	—	33.1	19.5	Mangaluru	—	35.0	25.1
Bhopal	—	37.0	15.8	Mumbai	—	33.1	23.9
Bhubaneswar	—	38.6	23.0	Mysuru	—	33.2	18.2
Chandigarh	—	33.6	16.6	New Delhi	—	35.8	18.2
Chennai	—	34.6	24.8	Patna	—	34.3	24.4
Coimbatore	—	35.5	23.0	Port Blair	—	31.3	25.8
Dehradun	—	34.1	16.9	Puducherry	—	32.2	23.9
Gangtok	5	17.4	13.1	Pune	—	39.2	22.7
Goa	—	34.4	25.5	Raipur	—	38.4	21.7
Guwahati	—	26.8	21.6	Ranchi	—	33.6	19.0
Hubballi	—	37.0	18.0	Shillong	29	20.6	13.2
Hyderabad	—	37.2	20.6	Shimla	—	26.9	15.6
Imphal	—	29.5	17.8	Srinagar	3	18.0	7.9
Jaipur	—	36.4	23.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.6	24.7
Kochi	—	32.2	26.8	Tiruchi	—	35.7	23.4
Kohima	—	20.4	13.7	Vijayawada	—	36.8	20.6
Kolkata	—	32.1	25.0	Visakhapatnam	—	32.6	23.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.43	..50	65	 78	...118	
Bengaluru	...4	..18	37	... 143	...178	
Chennai	...6	6	48	 63	...337	
Delhi	.34	..95	60	... 218	...264	
Hyderabad	...5	9	45	 89	...110	
Kolkata	...6	..46	40	 75	95	
Lucknow	.15	..41	38	... 207	...211	
Mumbai	.36	6	17	... 243	...275	
Pune	..—	..65	31	... 244	...158	
Visakhapatnam	.38	..76	19	 64	...124	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Ballabgarh, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 315 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Kohima, Nagaland recorded a healthy AQI score of 19

Air Quality Code: Poor, Moderate, Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

INBRIEF

Netflix Eyeline Studios VFX hub opens in Hyderabad

Netflix Eyeline Studios VFX hub was inaugurated by Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy in Hyderabad on Thursday. Netflix said the new global production and innovation studio features technology for advanced visual effects and generative virtual effects, all supported by a robust hybrid cloud infrastructure. It is the fifth global location for the company after those in Los Angeles, Vancouver, Seoul and London, Eyeline Studios CEO Jeff Shapiro said. Netflix said that it positions India as a core node in global production pipelines.

CPI(M)'s G. Sudhakaran to contest polls as Independent

Signalling his exit from Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)], in which he has served for over 63 years, senior leader and former Minister G. Sudhakaran announced on Thursday that he will be contesting as an Independent from the Ambalappuzha constituency in the upcoming Assembly elections. Addressing a press conference, Mr. Sudhakaran, however, clarified he had "no plans to abandon the Communist party's ideals, to which he remains steadfast to," or to join any other party or front.

₹34 lakh worth of property recovered from two burglars

The Chittoor police on Thursday arrested two persons involved in a series of house break-ins and recovered stolen property worth about ₹34 lakh, including gold and silver ornaments, and two cars. The accused, identified as Lallu Prasad (34) and Janardhan (31), both natives of Salem district in Tamil Nadu, were arrested at an abandoned petrol bunk on the Chittoor-Vellore road. Police said that Lallu Prasad has a long criminal history with 31 cases, including two murders, while Janardhan faces seven cases related to motorcycle thefts and ganja smuggling.

Man arrested in ₹50 lakh job fraud case

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Bachupally police arrested a man for allegedly cheating nearly 140 unemployed youth of around ₹50 lakh by promising jobs in reputed multinational companies through a fake placement scheme.

The accused, identified as Jakkula Ajay, 34, a resident of Korutla in Jagtial district, was apprehended on March 9 following an investigation into a complaint filed last month. Two other accused in the case, Sravani Kondaji and Sadgun Sadhula, are currently absconding.

Police said the case was registered on February 14 based on a complaint by Kasula Jagadeesh (34), a resident of Nizampet, who alleged that the accused had promised jobs in companies such as Cognizant, JPMorgan Chase, Amazon, EPAM, Qualcomm and Wells Fargo. Investigations revealed that the accused lured job seekers by claiming they could secure employment through a so-called "recommendation appointment scheme". They demanded placement charges ranging from ₹20,000 to ₹90,000 depending on the position and qualification.

The complainant was asked to collect money from several job seekers and transfer it to the accused. Police said about ₹47.2 lakh was transferred from the complainant's account and the accounts of other victims to the accused.

During the investigation, officers examined bank records of the victims and the accused, which revealed the financial transactions linked to the fraud. Police said the accused had cheated at least 137 unemployed persons through the scheme.

Kumbh Mela fame Monalisa dismisses 'love jihad' charge

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Monalisa Bhosle and Farman Khan during their press conference in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

Monalisa Bhosle, who shot to nationwide fame after her appearance at the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025, on Thursday defended her interfaith marriage to actor Farman Khan.

The Indore native also dismissed allegations of 'love jihad' and asserted that neither of them had converted their religion.

Addressing the media in Thiruvananthapuram, Ms. Bhosle said the decision to marry Mr. Khan was entirely her own.

She said her father had travelled with her to Kerala, but did not attend the ceremony and was still upset about the decision.

"He came here with me, but he is a little angry now. We will try to convince him later," she said.

Mr. Khan, who hails from Baghpat district in Uttar Pradesh, rejected claims that circulated in sections of the media that the marriage involved religious conversion or that the bride was underage.

"Neither of us has changed our religion. She remains Hindu and I remain Muslim. In love, conversion is not necessary," he said.

The couple said the wedding was conducted according to Hindu rituals in a temple at Ms. Bhosle's request. "I agreed to follow the rituals the way Monalisa wanted because I want her happiness," Mr. Khan said. He also produced documents, including Ms. Bhosle's Aadhaar card and birth certificate, to refute claims that she was a minor. The couple said they were overwhelmed by the support they received in Kerala and may consider settling in the State.

'Fake doctor' drugs patient, steals gold in Telangana

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

A woman posing as a gynaecologist allegedly drugged a patient and fled with gold ornaments weighing about 10 tolas at a corporate hospital in Secunderabad in Telangana on Wednesday, police said.

According to the police, the accused, who is yet to be identified, approached the patient while she was waiting for her turn. Dressed like a doctor, the accused asked the patient's relatives to step out and allegedly administered an injection to the woman before walking out of the room allegedly with the ornaments worn by the victim. The Market Police have registered a case. Efforts are under way to track down the suspect, police said

Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar assumes charge as T.N. Governor

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar assumed additional charge as Tamil Nadu Governor at Lok Bhavan in Chennai on Thursday.

Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, who was appointed by President Droupadi Murmu on March 5 to discharge the functions of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, assumed his gubernatorial office at Lok Bhavan in Chennai on Thursday.

Chief Justice of the Madras High Court Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari administered the oath of office to Mr. Arlekar.

The outgoing Governor R.N. Ravi, who served as the Governor of Tamil Nadu for nearly 54 months since September 2021, has been posted as the Governor of West Bengal.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, Union Minister of State L. Murugan, judges of the Madras High Court, Speaker of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly M. Appavu, Cabinet Ministers, Chief Secretary N. Muruganandam, Director-General of Police/Head of Police Force G. Venkataraman, Greater Chennai Police Commissioner A. Arun, and senior officials of the State government were present at the swearing-in ceremony.

After he assumed office, Mr. Stalin and Justice Dharmadhikari greeted Mr. Arlekar and his wife, Anagha Arlekar.

Sri Lankan Navy arrests 2 fishermen from Rameswaram

The Hindu Bureau
RAMESWARAM

Two fishermen from Rameswaram were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy on charges of poaching in the early hours of Thursday. According to sources, J. Minitto Rayappan, 26, and R. Sumanthan, 29, of Thangachimadam, had ventured into the sea on Wednesday. As they were reportedly fishing near the Katchatheevu and Mannar islets, the Sri Lankan naval personnel on surveillance duty picked them up. Their trawler was impounded. They were taken to the naval port in Talaimannar, Fisheries Department officials said, adding that on March 11, they had issued 422 tokens at the Rameswaram fish landing centre.

As the news of the fishermen's arrest spread, members of the coastal habitations expressed shock. Fishermen leaders said the Centre should come to their aid and help bring the two arrested persons back home.

Justice for all

The directives on NCERT show the Court as keen to stave off any criticism

The Supreme Court of India's sense of hurt at references to judicial corruption in a National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) textbook is in danger of resulting in a serious case of miscarriage of justice. According to the Court, the NCERT's textbook development team did not have "reasonable, informed knowledge about the Indian judiciary". The Court went on to direct that persons such as those in the team should not be associated in "any manner with preparation of school curriculum or finalisation of textbooks for the next generation of this country". This sweeping statement has cast a shadow over the entire exercise of textbook writing. While insisting on independent domain experts such as a senior judge to approve the chapters on judiciary before publication, the Court could have initiated a similar process for other chapters as well, especially for those dealing with history where the misrepresentation of facts is sometimes tinged with bigotry.

In the past, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allied organisations had critiqued Indian textbooks saying that they were Macaulay-an and created "westernised" minds that did not hold India's past, its traditions, and the Hindu religion as sacred. When the BJP came to power, it sought to redraft the textbooks along these lines. Now, references to Hindu rituals and beliefs are found across textbooks and subjects. For instance, a discussion on solar energy refers to the ritual of "arghyam", a Vedic salutation to the sun by pouring water. Geography is strictly science, but a geography chapter in a class seven textbook talks about a divine feminine presence pervading the Indian landmass, thereby making it sacred. The Court must apply the same yardsticks it used for the judiciary chapters to history chapters in the textbooks too. Part 1 of the same social science textbook for class eight describes Muslim rulers as uniformly and singularly cruel, despotic and repressive whereas Hindu kingdoms are portrayed as benign and as resisting Muslim rule. Objectivity is given short shrift, leading to genuine fears that the narrative is to instigate bigotry even though the class eight textbook includes a disclaimer that today's generation is not to be blamed for the 'sins' of the past. Textbook writing requires not just subject matter expertise but also skill that would genuinely kindle knowledge and inquiry as well as train minds towards valuing fairness, equality, peace and harmony. The language is important, so is the intent. Any selective targeting of chapters will only reinforce the perception that the judiciary is merely protecting itself. That, ultimately, would undermine any conception of justice.

Arbitrary and opaque

EPFO has tweaked pension scheme rules without wide consultations

The manner in which the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)'s Central Board of Trustees (CBT) approved the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS) 2026, on March 2, replacing the EPS 1995 scheme, has raised serious transparency concerns. This affects approximately 5.4 crore contributing members and 82 lakh pensioners. Although the EPS and the Employees' Provident Fund and Employees' Deposit-Linked Insurance Schemes were designed as a corollary to the Code on Social Security, 2020 – which was abruptly notified in November 2025 along with three other Codes – neither the government nor the Labour Ministry had, until now, given any hint of the new schemes. The stakeholders were not consulted by the authorities. More than any other scheme, the EPS 1995, has over the past decade, dominated headlines due to litigation in various courts, including the Supreme Court of India. Over the past 12 years, certain features of the scheme were altered, to the detriment of employees. For instance, coverage of the Pension Scheme was limited to those earning up to ₹15,000 a month, instead of offering universal coverage as originally intended. The pensionable salary calculation changed from the average pay in the last 12 months to 60 months, substantially reducing the amount of eligible pension. The unrestricted option for pension on a higher pension was limited to those who had exercised the option within a year of the modified scheme that came into force on September 1, 2014. With the Supreme Court's intervention in 2022, the higher pension option was extended to post-2014 retirees as a special case. Unfortunately, pre-2014 retirees were left in the lurch as the unrealistic conditions set by the PF body made most of them ineligible for higher pension.

In the new Pension Scheme approved by the CBT, the option provision has been removed as it is considered 'obsolete' for reflecting a narrow legal interpretation. Moreover, those hoping for an upward revision of the ₹15,000 PF contribution ceiling are disappointed, as no such indication has been given so far. Both the wage ceiling and the minimum pension of ₹1,000 were fixed over 11 years ago. The EPFO's overall approach seems to be aimed at reducing what authorities describe as the burden of pension commitment. With greater government funding and higher contributions from employers and willing employees, the EPFO can well meet pension challenges. A positive mindset along with empathy for pensioners and contributors is what is needed from the Union government and EPFO. A mere change of laws, regulations and procedures will not deliver the results desired by crores of members and lakhs of pensioners.

Preparing India for a true innovation-led economy

Gaurav Jain

is the founder of Hastin Research and an IPR expert helping enterprises, startups, and universities transform ideas into valuable IP

Mukundan Chakrapani

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Driving India's 'research, development, and innovation' story needs decisive private sector participation

India today presents a striking paradox in research, development, and innovation. Despite unprecedented government ambition, reflected in major funding commitments, regulatory reforms, and improving global innovation rankings, the country still continues to underperform on the fundamentals that drive innovation strength. Headlines suggest momentum, yet outcomes tell a more sobering story: low research and development (R&D) intensity, limited global technological influence, weak research-to-market translation, and persistently inadequate private-sector participation. While recent policy initiatives are necessary and welcome, India's innovation challenge is no longer one of intent but of execution. An examination of R&D expenditure, patent scale and quality, human capital gaps, and the weak bridge between research and entrepreneurship leads to an inevitable conclusion: meaningful transformation will require far deeper systemic change, particularly from the industry.

A year that holds promise

Following the Government of India's announcement of the ₹1,00,000 crore (approximately $12 billion) Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI) Fund last year, 2026 has begun with much promise. In her ninth consecutive Union Budget speech, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman reaffirmed the government's commitment to R&D through a ₹20,000 crore corpus for deep-tech startups, extended tax incentives, and investments in digital infrastructure. A near six-fold increase in funding for the flagship programme, Atal Tinkering Labs – from ₹500 crore to ₹3,200 crore – also highlights the focus on nurturing future innovators. The government's intent is clear: a Viksit Bharat powered by Yuva Shakti. But whether this translates into innovation outcomes will depend on how decisively industry responds.

These measures follow closely on the removal of the three-year existence requirement that had limited the access of deep-tech startups to schemes under the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research's Industrial R&D Promotion Programme. Late last year, the government also lifted the blanket ban on patenting inventions related to atomic energy. The Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Act, 2025 now allows patents for the "peaceful uses of nuclear energy and radiation", which opens the door for greater private-sector participation. Yet, as with other reforms, the real test will be whether industry invests enough to translate this openness into deployable technologies.

All these developments coincide with a significant improvement in India's ranking in the Global Innovation Index (GII). India now ranks 38th among 139 economies in GII 2025, and patent filings have nearly doubled from under 59,000 in 2020-21 to over 1,10,000 in 2024-25. While domestic filings now account for about 62% of the total, this shift is both recent and policy-driven, underscoring that the underlying innovation base – particularly industry-led R&D – remains shallow. Although these indicators point in the right direction, there remain systematic and structural issues that keep India from real transformation in research, development, and innovation.

The private sector's shortcomings

R&D expenditure as a share of GDP – especially private-sector spending – is a key indicator of innovation readiness. India invests just 0.65% of its GDP in R&D, far below advanced economies and many peers (lowest among BRICS nations except for South Africa) including Singapore, Japan, and South Korea. In most innovation-leading economies, industry drives the most R&D spending. In India, however, the state still bears a disproportionate share, reflecting the private sector's limited appetite for long-term, high-risk innovation.

Similarly, India's patent filing numbers are impressive in isolation, but are a fraction of the over 1.8 million patent applications filed in China (1.6 million domestic filings) and significantly less than the 600,000 filed in the United States (2,70,000 domestic filings). This reflects the absence of sustained, high-risk R&D investment by India's private sector.

One way to assess innovation impact is by international patent filings, since inventors seek protection abroad only for commercially viable ideas. The number of Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) applications show India's global contribution: 4,547 in 2024, up 22% from 2023. While growth is strong, India remains far behind China (over 70,000), the U.S. (over 54,000), and Japan (over 48,000). Even Switzerland, which is a bit larger than Kerala, filed over 5,300 applications. These examples show that scale, and not just growth rate, drives global technological influence.

According to the GII 2025, India performs poorly on key human-capital indicators critical to innovation, ranking 95 in employment in knowledge-intensive sectors and 80 in the number of full-time equivalent researchers. The situation is more acute with respect to gender diversity, where India ranks 101 among 119 economies in the employment of women with advanced degrees, a weakness that matters given the strong correlation between diversity and innovation outcomes. While the government has acknowledged this gap and introduced initiatives such as Women's Instinct for Developing and Ushering in Scientific Heights and Innovations (WIDUSHI) and Women in Science and Engineering (WISE)-KIRAN to improve women's participation in science and engineering, their impact remains to be seen. For now, the data underscore that India's innovation challenge is as much about talent inclusion and retention as it is about funding or policy intent.

A faultline

An attribute of India's development trajectory that is often quoted is the missing "large-scale, labour-intensive industrialisation" when compared to its east Asian peers leading to over reliance on agriculture and services. Even India's so-called new age unicorns are built on abundance of labour (instant delivery platforms, for example) rather than deep, defensible, genuine R&D-led technological innovation. It is, therefore, reasonable to conclude that the absence of globally significant technologies of Indian origin stems not merely from historical policy choices but also from a sustained reluctance within the private sector to invest in deep, long-gestation R&D.

Innovation reaches its full impact only when research is anchored to enterprise, i.e., when ideas move successfully from laboratory to market. In India, this last step – the absence of industry-led commercialisation mechanisms affecting innovation remains the weakest in the Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI) chain. While universities and public research institutions generate growing scientific output, mechanisms for technology transfer, venture creation, and risk-capital alignment remain underdeveloped. High-technology entrepreneurship is inherently uncertain, capital-intensive, and requires long-gestation, demanding patient funding, strong intellectual property protection, and an ecosystem that tolerates failure. Countries that lead in innovation have built bridges between academia, industry, and finance. India's opportunity lies not just in increasing startup numbers but also in nurturing R&D-driven enterprises capable of creating globally competitive technologies.

India's private sector must now take up the baton and rise to the challenge of driving India's RDI story. There are visible green shoots in the commercial space sector with several successful start-ups demonstrating strong promise. Deep tech is another emerging area where the RDI fund set up by the government can be a game changer, provided industry positively embraces the opportunity and commits long-term capital. When the 6G standard is globally launched in the coming years, it will be telling how many Indian origin patents feature among the standard essential patents (SEP) list. The government has paved the way. But the question now is whether India's private sector R&D will race ahead.

The views expressed are personal

Economic Survey promises, impact of new labour codes

Krishna Priya Choragudi

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The promises of reform cannot hide the realities in India's informal workforce

India's new labour codes, with draft central rules released in December 2025, have been presented as a reform with transformative potential. The Economic Survey 2025-26 makes an optimistic case: these codes are expected to increase formalisation from 60.4% to 75.5%, generate 77 lakh jobs, reduce unemployment, boost female labour force participation and contribute 1.25% to GDP by 2029-30. These projections assume that simplifying compliance for firms will incentivise formalisation and expand registered employment.

However, over 80% of India's workers are in the informal sector, and they remain outside most of the labour code protections. The scale of informality is increasing. Firms, when given flexibility, tend to respond by shifting away from formal employment. Between 2011 and 2023, direct factory employment fell from 61% to 47%. Contract workers grew to 42% of the factory workforce. Regular employment in central public sector enterprises declined by 30,000 workers in 2024 alone, replaced by casual and contract workers (Public Enterprises Survey 2025). The organised sector, once associated with stable employment, is shrinking in India. And the new codes accelerate this by loosening regulatory definitions and protections, making it easier for firms to avoid permanent employment relationships.

Formalisation illusion

A striking feature of the codes is how they respond to informality by raising the thresholds for protections. The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code raises the definition of a "factory" from 10 workers to 20 (with power) and from 20 to 40 (without power), increases the contract labour threshold from 20 to 50 workers and raises the threshold for prior approval for lay-offs from 100 to 300 workers.

At the same time, the government expects these codes to increase formalisation. This rests largely on expanding "fixed-term employment", that is, letting firms hire on short-term contracts instead of permanent jobs. Formal employment has historically meant job security, regular wages, social security and the ability for collective bargaining. Fixed-term employment offers some benefits under the codes, such as appointment letters and equal gratuity after one year, but undermines the key feature that distinguishes formal work from precarious work: job security.

Grey areas

While the codes require platform companies to contribute 1%-2% of annual turnover for gig worker schemes, rules on how companies must contribute, benefit levels, coverage and claim details are all left to be "notified through subsequent schemes". The reskilling fund for retrenched workers follows the same pattern: employers must deposit 15 days' wages per worker. How to access these funds, who provides training and what skills are taught are unspecified. Like India's many cess and welfare funds, collection may happen, but utilisation may lag perpetually.

The Code on Wages creates a National Floor Wage and a National Minimum Wage but offers no clear methodology for setting either and how they will differ. The new rules make space for greater administrative discretion instead. Defenders of flexible labour markets often argue that minimum wages destroy jobs. The logic is that if you force employers to pay more than market rates, they will hire fewer workers. But decades of empirical research have shown that the job loss predictions consistently fail to materialise (Dube 2019). Higher wages reduce turnover costs for firms. And, when low paid workers get raises, they spend more on food, transport, housing and goods. The increased consumption boosts aggregate demand. In labour markets where employers often have substantial power to set wages below competitive levels, minimum wages actually improve efficiency by reducing employer exploitation.

Further, the rebranding of labour inspectors as "Inspector-cum-Facilitators" might sound progressive, but when inspectors become facilitators helping employers comply, enforcement weakens. This is made explicit by allowing employers to compound serious violations such as wage theft or unpaid overtime by paying prescribed fines. If penalties are lower than compliance costs, breaking the law can become a rational business decision. This is particularly damaging in the informal sector. In the absence of unions, labour courts or workers' awareness of rights, labour inspectors could have been the only channel for redressal. Converting them to facilitators eliminates even this minimal accountability.

There are many assumptions

The labour codes fail to confront what drives informality in the first place. It is not that regulations are too complex for firms to navigate but that informality is structurally profitable. While technology is automating routine jobs, the new platform jobs it is creating are bypassing employment relationships entirely.

The optimistic projections of the Economic Survey rest on assumptions that contradict many of the labour market realities. Making formal jobs more flexible will not lead to formalisation as long as informality remains cheaper and more profitable.

Lower compliance costs will also not create better jobs if firms respond by replacing permanent workers with contract workers. The numbers may eventually materialise, such as higher formalisation percentages, but they will measure changes in how firms account for workers, not improvements in how workers actually live.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

India's LPG crunch

Disruptions in global energy supplies due to the United States-Israel-Iran conflict have exposed India's heavy dependence on imported crude oil. Given the seriousness of the situation, the government has invoked the Essential Services Maintenance Act and rationed supplies. Small businesses, hotels, restaurants and the hospitality sector are already feeling the impact. If the disruption continues, industries may face shutdowns, leading to job losses. While Parliament is in session, the government should urgently convene an all-party meeting to brief political leaders on the real situation. Transparency and collective responsibility are essential when the livelihoods of 140 crore Indians are at stake.

S.K. Khosla,
Chandigarh

In these days of a largely man-made LPG crisis, it is important to revisit initiatives such as gobar gas plants that generate methane from cow dung, kitchen waste and other crop residues. Apart from producing fuel, these systems also provide the added benefit of supplying high-quality organic manure. With the easy availability of LPG cylinders in the past, many innovative forms of gobar gas plants gradually fell out of use. However, in the present situation, these sustainable and self-reliant energy solutions have, once again, become very relevant.

Dr. V. Purushothaman,
Chennai

The Prime Minister has urged people not to panic while petroleum officials say the country has adequate oil and gas stocks. Yet, the situation across the country suggests otherwise. At a time like this, parliamentary responsibility should take precedence over political campaigning. The nation expects the Prime Minister to stand with the people and offer his clear reassurance in this hour of uncertainty.

S.V. Venkatakrishnan,
Coimbatore

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Is India tailing the U.S. in its West Asia policy?

Amb. Talmiz Ahmad

is a former Indian diplomat. He served as Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Oman, and the UAE

Kabir Taneja

is the Executive Director of Observer Research Foundation Middle East

PARLEY

A major war has erupted in West Asia, with Israel, the U.S., and Iran locked in direct conflict. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Israel just before the country, along with the U.S., attacked Iran. India has not condemned the killing of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Meanwhile, the war has resulted in rising energy prices, economic risks, and put at risk the safety of hundreds of thousands of Indian families in the region. Is India tailing the U.S. in its West Asia policy? Talmiz Ahmad and Kabir Taneja discuss this question in a conversation moderated by **Smriti Sudesh**. Edited excerpts:

How is India's response to the Israel-U.S.-Iran war affecting its energy, economy, and citizens' safety?

Talmiz Ahmad: Given India's long-term stakes in regional peace, energy security, trade, investment, connectivity projects, and the welfare of 10 million Indians in the region, the government's approach has been surprisingly detached.

Developments over the past two years, including Hamas attacks on Israel, a two-year war killing 72,000 people, and Israeli and U.S. strikes on Iran, should have demanded urgent attention. India could have played a central role in urging restraint, but its response was half-hearted. Our External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar did have one meeting with the GCC Foreign Ministers and also one meeting in January with the Arab League Foreign Ministers. But the sense of urgency and the sense that we have a collective view with regard to regional security, none of that appears to have emerged.

And, Mr. Modi's visit to Israel just before the conflict sent signals of affiliation. In moments of significant strategic churn, we do not take sides. You should keep your options open.

Iranian drones and missiles have struck Gulf territories. They have actively intercepted these threats but have explicitly ruled out direct military participation in the war. How sustainable is this stance?

Kabir Taneja: Most Gulf countries are currently framing their actions as purely defensive. They seem to be very careful not to use terminology such as "war" or indicate any offensive position they want to take. They have made it very clear that they are only taking down projectiles that have been launched against them. However, cracks are emerging in their air defences.

If they shift to an offensive posture and strike targets in Iran, they would be seen as joining Israel and the U.S. against Iran. That is not something that is going to be palatable in the long term for the Gulf countries themselves.

If this conflict prolongs in the manner in which it is continuing right now, it will become unsustainable for them to react in the way they are currently reacting. They could face shortages of air defences if such attacks persist for a continuous period.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu during a press conference in Jerusalem on February 26. AFP

Modi's Israel visit occurred just before the joint Israeli-U.S. strikes, and India has not condemned the killing of Khamenei. Does this indicate that India is taking a side?

TA: Mr. Modi's visit to Israel and his warm engagement with the Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, and his speech at the Knesset, indicate that Mr. Modi followed his heart. He believed that Israel needs India now. You could also argue that this emotional bonding with Israel could be justified on security and strategic grounds. Israel, at the end of the day, is a major supplier of security-related technology and defence equipment to us.

However, strategic ambiguity can sometimes serve national interests better than openly signalling a one-sided affiliation on the eve of conflict.

India's relationship with Iran has historically been friendly. But as Tehran faces sustained air strikes, New Delhi has maintained silence. What does it say about the current state of India-Iran ties?

KT: Many believe India's bilateral trade with Iran seems limited beyond oil and the Chabahar Port project, making it appear that economic ties are mainly transactional.

From an Indian point of view, our relationship with Iran is strategically very critical because of the work that we can do with them on issues such as Pakistan and Afghanistan, and now of course with connectivity to Central Asia and the South Caucasus. Given this strategic significance, it is somewhat perplexing that India has not been able to use certain terms such as "protection of sovereignty" and similar language when discussing what has taken place in Iran, including the assassination of Khamenei. There have been top-level conversations. Also, Mr. Jaishankar alluded to the fact that there have been difficulties in reaching President Masoud Pezeshkian as well. At present, it is very muddled.

> Most Gulf countries are currently framing their actions as purely defensive. They seem to be very careful not to use terminology such as 'war' or indicate any offensive position they want to take
>
> KABIR TANEJA

To what extent does the U.S. influence India's policy towards West Asia?

TA: Beyond the already complex state of global affairs, we now face a significant source of unpredictability and aggression in the persona of U.S. President Donald Trump. He has allowed himself to be manipulated by Mr. Netanyahu.

It is in this background that we have to evaluate how India has dealt with the region and the U.S. President. Mr. Modi engaged with Mr. Trump in February, believing that he could pick up where he left off at the end of Mr. Trump's first term. Several things went wrong.

First, he imposed huge tariffs upon us. Then we had the issue of penal tariffs relating to Russian oil sales. Then we had to negotiate the FTA, which by most accounts turned out to be quite one-sided.

Mr. Trump also expected India to publicly credit him for 'brokering' the India-Pakistan ceasefire. I suspect in his heart of hearts, he believes that the Nobel Prize denied to him is largely on account of India not giving him the plaudits that he felt he deserved. And that has made him hostile to India and to Mr. Modi.

When Mr. Modi told the Finnish President that "war does not solve anything", that message should have been conveyed in Washington and Tel Aviv as well. Besides the murder of large numbers of civilians, which has now become an Israeli habit, they have created a very serious crisis: energy crisis, economic crisis and threats to the life and livelihood of millions of our people.

What is the current outlook for the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)?

KT: It has not really moved forward since it was announced. The October 7 Hamas terror attack against Israel was a fundamental institutional blow to IMEC. Prior to that, there was some positivity about at least beginning discussions on how it could be constructed as a trade corridor. But since the Gaza crisis, it has been almost completely absent from government agendas. It continues to be discussed in Track-Two dialogues and research circles, but at the government level, there is no one particularly keen on pushing that project forward right now. With the current crisis taking place, it has been pushed even further to the back of everyone's mind. From an academic point of view, it is easy to draw lines across countries and say a corridor can run through here or there. But if capital and business are not interested in using it, there is no point. Right now, we are seeing a level of instability in the Gulf that we have not witnessed in a long time.

As far as IMEC is concerned, it is definitely on the back burner at this point of time.

What is your overall assessment of the trajectory of this war?

TA: Talking about the regional scenario after the war is difficult at this stage. My hope is that they are able to bring a ceasefire into play very soon.

In conflicts like this, the Americans may need to intervene to end the fighting. Unlike post-9/11 U.S. interventions, there is no immediate crisis now, and Iran's weapons programme shows no evidence of revival. Then what is this war about?

Mr. Trump had encouraged a dialogue with the Iranians. They had three rounds of dialogue. There is every evidence that Iran's approach was extraordinarily constructive. But despite this, Mr. Trump went to war.

The future of Israel is uncertain because it is connected with the fortunes of Mr. Netanyahu. He has always put his personal fortunes ahead of the national interest. It remains to be seen what the attitude of the Israeli people is, whether they are in a forgiving mood and uphold him as 'Mr. Security' once again.

West Asia lacks a platform for serious security discussions. Track-two dialogues should pave the way for 1.5-level engagement, eventually leading to government-to-government talks. India, China, Russia, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Vietnam can play a significant role if they assume responsibility for facilitating constructive dialogue.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
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NOTEBOOK

MSM could be a war casualty

As Western mainstream media toes state line during wars, social media, independent journalists challenge propaganda and fill information gap

Varghese K. George

'Truth is the first casualty of war' is a long-held axiom, but independent and bold journalism can play a corrective role. However, that is not how it happens in real situations of war most of the time. Under coercion or persuasion, the mainstream media (MSM) becomes an amplifier of the state's war propaganda. The manufacturing of consent becomes even fiercer. Part of this is due to the impracticality of getting accurate information regarding claims made during conflicts. Most information is generated by state actors who disseminate it selectively.

Even then, proactive journalists and platforms can question official versions through logic, by obtaining information from whistleblowers within the system, and by using publicly available sources. The MSM largely suspends that role – and, even worse, becomes a collaborator in national security propaganda mostly. One reason MSM had its credibility eroded is that social media exposed the brazen manner in which it colludes with governments and political parties across the world.

The current war of choice launched by the U.S. and Israel against Iran is both an opportunity and a crisis for the MSM – it could end up as a war casualty by toeing official propaganda and becoming a carrier of misinformation, or it could try to emerge as a corrective force.

At the moment, with a wider catchment of information and opinion, it is social media, independent journalists, data crunchers, and open-source intelligence trawlers that are filling the information gap deliberately created by state actors.

Western "free" media had already prepared this slant for the big war through its obfuscating coverage of the Israeli offensive on the civilian population of Gaza since October 2023, through the selection of words and headlines that cover up for Israel and blame the Palestinians. Acts of violence by the West are often reported in the passive voice, without revealing upfront who the perpetrator is. But such twisting of daily facts is peripheral to the deeper manipulation of the information environment – such as the complete manufacturing of the story of Iraq possessing weapons of mass destruction, which ushered in an endless war.

The high impact of social media is forcing some marginal changes in MSM behaviour in the U.S. Tucker Carlson alone has brought to the American public discourse points of view that the MSM had refused to carry. His interviews with Vladimir Putin in 2024 and with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in 2025 made alternative perspectives available to the American public at scale. They were watched millions of times, a feat that no MSM channel or journalist in the U.S. can dream of. So much so that it may well be one reason why state actors in the U.S. and Israel acted in panic to start this war before shifts in public opinion made it impossible.

American MSM is being dragged by circumstances to raise some elementary questions about the war, but it largely tends to follow the security establishment's line. It is no accident that *The Washington Post* called for the punishment of whistleblower Edward Snowden – because, as the paper's editorial board put it, his leaks caused "tremendous damage to national security" by exposing intelligence operations it deemed lawful.

The paper made this demand after winning a Pulitzer Prize on the back of the very information he provided – becoming, in the process, the first newspaper in American history to editorialise for the criminal prosecution of its own source. Julian Assange, who published the documentary record of American war crimes in Iraq and Afghanistan, was hunted across jurisdictions for over a decade.

War is waged on truth as surely as it is waged on the enemies of the nation. The Western MSM has been a willing combatant in that war for too long. The Iran conflict could be yet another turning point for the Western MSM – whether it intends to be an unsung casualty or a fighter for truth.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Fuelling survival

In crisis: Amid the ongoing commercial LPG cylinder shortage in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, many restaurants are turning to firewood to keep their kitchens running. Firewood is currently priced at ₹12 per kg. M. PERIASAMY

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 13, 1976

Sanskrit catalogue project needs a saviour

Madras, March 12: The Catalogus Catalogorum project of the Madras University's Sanskrit Department will have to be abandoned if the Department does not get aid to continue the work beyond March 31 when the 10-year UGC assistance will end. The work is an alphabetical register of Sanskrit and allied works and authors.

This catalogue of catalogues, which will serve as a valuable basic tool of research scholars in Sanskrit, religion and philosophy, has been receiving UGC aid during the Third and Fourth Five-Year Plans. The UGC has informed the Department that it cannot continue the aid anymore. It has, however, suggested that the Madras University may seek help from the Rashtriya Samskrita Samsthan, New Delhi or Union Education Ministry for completing the project.

The Registrar of the Madras University wrote to the Samskritha Samsthan in November, 1975 but the Samsthan has not replied so far.

The Union Ministry has asked the UGC to continue the help, but the latter has firmly declined saying that it could not extend the aid beyond the 10-year period.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 13, 1926

Lalaji opens Khadi exhibition

Delhi, March 12: The Khadi Exhibition was opened this afternoon by Lala Lajpat Rai and was largely attended. Among those present were Mrs. Naidu, Mrs. Lajpat Rai, the Hon'ble Raja Rampal Singh, Mr. Sirinivasa Iyengar, Swami Shraddhanand and Mr. M. K. Acharya.

Lala Shanker Lal in thanking the organisers, said that the exhibition was the first of its kind in Delhi. The Khadi exhibited showed successive stages of improvement from 1921 till today. It would further be improved in fineness with increased demand.

Lala Lajpat Rai, in declaring the Exhibition open, said that India was famous in the past for manufacture of yarn.

From Page One

Crude supply secure, no shortage of fuel: Puri

Commercial LPG is sold in a "fully deregulated over-the-counter market without subsidy, registration, booking, or purchase limits" that can let a buyer procure "cylinders in any quantity" Mr. Puri said. Without restriction, such bulk purchase "could have been diverted to the grey market at the expense of genuine commercial consumers and domestic households alike", he said.

He noted that field reports of shortage indicate "hoarding and panic-booking at the distributor and retail level, driven by consumer anxiety rather than any actual supply shortage".

Raising concerns about India's energy security, Mr. Gandhi had alleged that the Narendra Modi government had "bartered" the right to determine its relationship with different oil suppliers with the U.S. because of a "compromise". The Congress leader said there is widespread panic about LPG, restaurants are closing, street vendors are affected and that "the pain has just started'".

Mr. Gandhi, however, could not complete his speech as he sought to draw certain inferences about Mr. Puri which was disallowed by Speaker Om Birla who said the Opposition leader should have given prior notice before making any allegation on the floor of the House.

Subsequently, the Petroleum Minister informed the Lok Sabha that India was importing approximately 60% of its LPG requirements from the Gulf countries before the start of the conflict but have diversified its supply chains since then. "Procurement has now been actively diversified, with cargoes being secured from the U.S., Norway, Canada, Algeria, and Russia, in addition to available Gulf sources," he said amid constant sloganeering from the Opposition members.

(With inputs from Saptaparno Ghosh)

Supreme Leader vows to keep Hormuz shut

The number of ships passing through the Strait of Hormuz, the critical maritime chokepoint connecting the Persian Gulf with the Arabia Sea through which roughly 20% to 34% of world's oil passes through, has come down to single digits in recent days as the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has targeted cargo vessels in the Gulf waters. There were also reports that the Strait is being mined by the Guards.

"The countries of the region must clarify their stance regarding the aggressors against our dear homeland and the killers of our people," Mr. Khamenei, who is yet to make a public appearance since his appointment as the country's top leader, said, referring to Persian Gulf monarchies that were targeted by Iranian missiles and drones since the war began. "I recommend that they shut down those bases as soon as possible; for they must surely have realised by now that America's claim of establishing security and peace has been nothing but a lie."

Mr. Khamenei, according to Iranian officials, was injured in the U.S.-Israeli strike on February 28 that killed his father and former Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, but is "safe and sound". He thanked Iran's non-state allies such as Hezbollah, and said additional fronts would be opened "in areas where the enemy has negligible experience" if the "state of war persists".

Cong. seeks all-party meet on women's quota law

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The Congress has conveyed to the government that instead of consulting political parties individually on the possibility of bringing an amendment to advance the timeline for implementing the Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act or the *Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam*, the government should convene an all-party meeting.

The Act seeks to allocate 33% of seats in directly elected legislative bodies, including the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, to women. The Bill was passed by Parliament on September 21, 2023.

"There should be an all-party meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, so that the views of all political parties can be taken," a senior Congress leader said.

Every MP can speak but only as per rules: Speaker

Om Birla addresses LS a day after Opposition's motion for his removal was defeated; he says 'every voice is heard' in the House but members cannot 'stand at any time and speak on any subject'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after the motion for his removal was defeated in the Lok Sabha, Speaker Om Birla on Thursday said that every Member of Parliament, whether a Minister or an Opposition member, has the right to speak but only according to the rules.

Mr. Birla, who addressed the House for the first time since the motion backed by more than 100 MPs was moved, said freedom of speech is guaranteed in Parliament, but it is subject to the Constitution and the rules and standing orders regulating parliamentary procedure. Detailed guidelines exist regarding how MPs should conduct themselves in the House, he said.

Speaker Om Birla speaking in the Lok Sabha on Thursday. ANI

The motion seeking his removal was defeated by a voice vote in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, amid protests. The motion brought by Opposition parties accused the Speaker of failing to ensure impartial functioning of the House.

With regard to the references made during the discussion on Wednesday to Article 105 of the Constitution regarding freedom of speech in Parliament, the Speaker said the Constitution itself places this freedom within the framework of parliamentary rules. He said that over the past two days, the House had witnessed more than 12 hours of discussion, during which members from different parties expressed their views. "I listened carefully and attentively to every member. I sincerely thank all members... whether they expressed their views in support or offered suggestions through criticism. This is the essence of democracy: every voice is heard."

He said that some members believe that the Leader of the Opposition may stand at any time and speak on any subject of their choice as a special privilege, but "no member in this House possesses any privilege to speak outside the framework of these rules".

The Speaker appealed to MPs across party lines to work together. "Let us begin a new, positive and constructive chapter from today," he said.

Centre not giving CAPF officers their due, says MP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Officers of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) wait 10 to 15 years for their first promotions though they put their lives on the line, Samajwadi Party MP Ram Gopal Yadav told the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

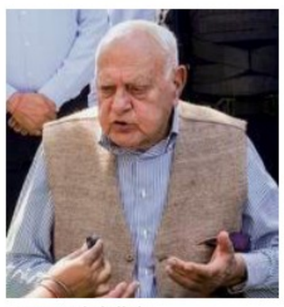
Raising the issue during Zero Hour, he slammed the Centre for its failure to implement a 2025 Supreme Court order to grant Organised Group A Services status to the officers and to reduce the deputation of IPS officers in the CAPF. "It is demoralising for the 13,000 CAPF officers that the Centre is not giving them their due," he said.

The Central Armed Forces (General Administration) Bill, likely to be introduced in this session, aims to codify the CAPF functioning and comes in response to the SC ruling.

Hate is deeply rooted in India now, says Farooq after attack

Peerzada Ashiq
JAMMU

Former Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Chief Minister and National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah on Thursday said hatred was deeply rooted in today's India, as he demanded "a thorough inquiry" into a resident's attempt to kill him in Jammu on Wednesday.



Farooq Abdullah

"Atmosphere we live in is filled with hate. The tragedy is that hate is deeply rooted in the country now. The space for those who talk about brotherhood, harmony and secularism is shrinking. No religion teaches to inflict harm on anyone," he said in Jammu.

On Wednesday night, Kamal Singh, 64, aimed a pistol at him at a wedding ceremony and fired two shots. On the accused's statement that he was "planning to kill him for the past 20 years", Mr. Abdullah said, "I have never met him. I don't know the cause of his rivalry."

According to the police, the accused said he had "personal motives" to kill Mr. Abdullah, without divulging any details.

Home Minister Amit Shah called Mr. Abdullah to enquire about his well-being. J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha also spoke to him and ordered a probe. Cutting across the party lines, J&K leaders condemned the attack.

'People of Kashmir are not safe in your hands,' Cong. chief tells Centre

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Flagging the assassination bid on former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said here on Thursday that there had been a serious deterioration of law and order in J&K since the Union Home Ministry assumed control of security after the revocation of Statehood.

The incident showed that the "people of Kashmir are not safe", he said in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, suggesting that there was a larger conspiracy to target senior leaders.

Govt. promises probe

The Leader of the House and Union Minister, J.P. Nadda, promised a comprehensive probe into the "murderous attack", but accused the Opposition of politicising the incident.

Seeking answers: National Conference leaders protest in Srinagar against the attack on party chief Farooq Abdullah. IMRAN NISSAR

"His security is under threat because the Statehood of Jammu and Kashmir was revoked," Mr. Kharge said, arguing that when security and policing were under the elected State government, "no such incident could occur". He reiterated that the current situation stemmed from the Centre assuming charge of security.

Referring to Wednesday night's attack, Mr. Kharge said Mr. Abdullah "was saved by a whisker" after a man allegedly fired at him at a marriage function in Jammu. "Is it the intention of the government to kill Farooq Abdullah," Mr. Kharge asked. If the intention was to safeguard him, he argued, the former Chief Minister would have been provided full security cover, Mr. Kharge said.

Insisting that people would be safe only when Jammu and Kashmir regained Statehood, the Congress chief told the Centre: "People of Kashmir are not safe in your hands."

National Conference MP Chowdry Mohammad Ramzan also questioned the security lapse, alleging there was no police protection for Mr. Abdullah at the time of the attack.

Responding to the concerns, Mr. Nadda said the government would take all necessary measures to ensure Mr. Abdullah's safety. Calling the incident "a murderous attack" and "a matter of great concern," he assured the Rajya Sabha that the Centre would conduct a thorough probe.

However, Mr. Nadda also criticised the Opposition for politicising the issue, saying that linking the attack to the absence of Statehood or to a conspiracy was "condemnable".

ED attaches ₹581-cr. land in Reliance Group case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has provisionally attached 31 immovable properties worth ₹581.65 crore in a case allegedly linked to Reliance Home Finance Limited (RHFL) and Reliance Commercial Finance Limited (RCFL). The cumulative attachment linked to the Reliance Anil Ambani Group has now reached ₹16,310 crore, the agency said on Thursday.

The attached properties are in the form of land parcels across several States. The attachment follows search operations conducted on March 6 in a matter relating to Reliance Power Limited under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), it said.

The ED said RHFL and RCFL had raised public funds from multiple banks and financial institutions, and more than ₹11,000 crore of these funds turned into non-performing assets. As alleged, the funds were diverted to various Reliance Group companies.

21 Nagas freed amid tension over deaths of 2 Kukis in Manipur

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The bodies of two Kuki men, missing after a shooting incident, were recovered from a jungle in Manipur's Kamjong district early Thursday morning, hours after 21 Tangkhul Naga people were released by their captors in the adjoining Ukhrul district, triggering fresh tension.

The Naga individuals, including women and children, were travelling on the Imphal-Ukhrul Road when a Kuki group intercepted their vehicles and held them captives on Wednesday.

This was reportedly in retaliation for an anti-poppy cultivation drive by "Naga volunteers" on Wednesday, after which two Kuki cultivators went missing while another sustained bullet injuries.

Ukhrul and Kamjong are Naga-dominated districts. Ukhrul town is about 80 km from Imphal.

District officials said the 21 Nagas were handed over to the Indian Army late on Wednesday night.

The post-release relief proved to be temporary when Kuki protesters blocked the Ukhrul-Imphal Road after the bodies of two of their tribesmen were found in a forested patch near Thawai Kuki village in Kamjong district. Thawai Kuki is about one km from Shangkai village, another affected village in Ukhrul district.

The duo went missing after "Naga volunteers" allegedly opened fire on Kuki villagers. While the Nagas claimed the incident occurred during a drive against poppy cultivation in the area, the Kukis said the firing was unprovoked.

CM promises NIA probe

In Imphal, Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh told the 60-member State Assembly that the government would hand over the case related to the death of the two people at Thawai Kuki village to the National Investigation Agency.

He also said that ex gratia would be provided to the families of the two deceased men.

In RS, MPs raise U.P. school closures, judicial diversity

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Concerns over the state of public education in Uttar Pradesh, lack of social diversity in the higher judiciary, and the implications of permitting 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the insurance sector dominated Zero Hour in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

Proceedings under way in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. ANI

Raising the issue of school closures, Javed Ali Khan of the Samajwadi Party said the government's primary education network in Uttar Pradesh had been "nearly dismantled". Of the 4.18 lakh sanctioned teaching posts, 85,000 remain vacant, while 1.5 lakh Shiksha Mitras continue on low wages. He noted that 2,586 schools operate with single teachers, and around 27,000 schools have either been shut or merged.

Teachers, he said, are overburdened with non-academic duties ranging from Census and cattle counts to welfare scheme surveys, and in some States even managing stray cattle and dogs. Citing an order of the Allahabad High Court directing the government to relieve teachers of such additional tasks, he urged the Centre to ensure they are allowed to focus solely on teaching.

FDI in insurance

P. Sandosh Kumar of the Communist Party of India called upon the government to reconsider the decision to allow 100% FDI in insurance, arguing that the sector safeguards the savings of millions and should not be left entirely to foreign capital. He warned that multinational firms might prioritise urban markets, sideline rural consumers, and endanger the livelihoods of thousands of insurance agents.

P. Wilson of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam revisited the issue of social diversity within the judiciary, renewing his demand for regional Benches of the Supreme Court of India. He pointed out that of the 593 High Court judges appointed in the past five years, nearly 80% were from forward communities.

The Supreme Court currently has only one woman judge, two from religious minorities, one from the Scheduled Castes and none from the Scheduled Tribes.

Broader representation, he said, is essential to ensure the judiciary reflects India's social diversity.

Murmu's office rejects Trinamool request

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Days after President Droupadi Murmu's tour of West Bengal became a political flashpoint between the BJP-led Union government and the Trinamool Congress-led State government, a Trinamool request to meet the President to brief her on "welfare and development programmes for the upliftment of tribal communities" has been turned down by the President's Secretariat, citing paucity of time.

During her visit, Ms. Murmu had publicly expressed displeasure over the arrangements made for an event she attended in Bengal and had also questioned why Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee did not meet her during the trip.

On March 9, the Trinamool Congress wrote to the President seeking an appointment for a delegation comprising party MPs and State Ministers. "The delegation wishes to proudly share with you the many initiatives by the government of West Bengal, under the leadership of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, for the inclusive development of all sections of society," the letter stated.

In its response, the President's Secretariat said the request "could not be acceded to due to paucity of time."

APPEAL

Master Raghvendra, Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Hospital UHID No.14187300, 11 years is Diagnosed to be suffering from Thalassemia Major. He has a Potential Matched Sibling Donor & requires stem cell transplant as Curative Therapy. The Estimated cost of the transplant is Approximate Rs.22, 00,000/-

Please send donation however small by Cheque/D.D/M.O Fav. **Save Poor Lives** A/c Raghvendra, **Our A/c Details:** S/B A/c No. 20000913487. S.B.I. R.A.Puram, IFSC CODE:SBIN0001855. Please Donate by G-pay No.9884607377, UPI Id: savepoorlives@oksbi. Donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

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India co-sponsors resolution passed by UNSC against Iran

The resolution demands the 'immediate cessation of all attacks by the Islamic Republic of Iran' on GCC countries; India prioritises the safety of 'all civilians', says Ministry in wake of criticism over unbalanced responses on conflict in West Asia

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India has prioritised the safety of "all civilians", the government said on Wednesday in an effort to deflect criticism that it had only condemned Iran's actions, and not those by the U.S. and Israel in the ongoing war in West Asia.

On Wednesday, India co-sponsored a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) resolution at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) along with 134 countries that demanded the "immediate cessation of all attacks by the Islamic Republic of Iran" against GCC countries Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Jordan. The resolution was passed with 13 UNSC members voting in favour while Russia and China abstained.

It condemned "any actions or threats by the Islamic Republic of Iran aimed at closing, obstructing, or otherwise interfering with international navigation through the Strait of Hormuz".

> The resolution reflects several of our positions. We have a large diaspora in the GCC countries, and their well-being and welfare are of utmost importance. The Gulf is also very important for our energy security needs
>
> **RANDHIR JAISWAL**
> MEA spokesperson

"The resolution reflects several of our positions," said Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal at a weekly press briefing on Thursday.

"We have a large diaspora in the GCC countries, and their well-being and welfare are of utmost importance. The Gulf is also very important for our energy security needs," Mr. Jaiswal added, in references to about 10 million Indians who live and work in West Asia, and India's energy purchases from the region that make up about 50% of its crude oil and 90% of its liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) imports.

In contrast, there are about 9,000 Indians in Iran and India has discontinued its energy imports from Iran since 2019, under threat of U.S. sanctions. The Indian support for the UNSC resolution comes on the heels of a number of statements by the Ministry condemning specific Iranian actions such as the attacks on various countries across the West Asian region, buildings in Dubai, Omani facilities and a Thai ship bound for India.

U.S.-Israeli actions

However, India has not similarly condemned the attacks by the U.S. and Israel on Iran, in which an estimated 1,255 people have been killed, including Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, his family and advisors; the sinking of Iranian ship *IRIS Dena* in the Indian Ocean that had been hosted for exercises by India; or the bombing of a school in Mubin in which 150 schoolgirls are believed to have been killed. Nor has India or the GCC-led resolution spoken about Israel's strikes on Lebanon, where the government said more than 630 people have been killed, and 8,00,000 displaced from their homes.

To a question from *The Hindu* about the seemingly unbalanced responses, Mr. Jaiswal said that the MEA had issued statements, and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had made *suo motu* statements in both Houses of Parliament that regretted the loss of lives.

"As far as the question of the schoolchildren is concerned... we have issued several statements on the ongoing conflict. We have underlined the need for prioritising the safety of all civilians. We regret the precious lives lost, and express our grief in that regard," Mr. Jaiswal said.

In the past few days, India's "silence" on U.S. and Israeli actions has come in for criticism from a number of senior former diplomats speaking to the media and at various public events.

"Diplomacy should recognise complexity, not reduce it to a single culprit," former Indian Foreign Secretary and former Ambassador to the U.S. Nirupama Menon Rao said on Thursday in a post referring to the Ministry of External Affairs statement, suggesting that India's sponsorship of the UN resolution would "endorse a narrative that begins the story with Iranian retaliation rather than the escalation that preceded it".

In an interview to news agency *ANI*, former Foreign Secretary Kanwal Sibal said India should have issued a statement condoling the death of Ayatollah Khamenei "to recognise that the head of state contrary to norms of international law has been politically assassinated".

Speaking about the March 4 submarine torpedo attack that sank the *IRIS Dena* "very close to India shores", former Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran said that India must assert itself in the face of U.S. actions. "Tactical subservience can easily result in strategic irrelevance," he added.

Reports of Iran allowing Indian ships through strait are 'premature', says govt.

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of External Affairs on Thursday said it was rather "premature" to discuss reports about India receiving permission for ships to cross the Strait of Hormuz.

"External Affairs Minister and Foreign Minister of Iran have had three conversations in the last few days. The last one discussed issues pertaining to safety of shipping and India's energy security. Beyond that, it would be premature for me to say anything," said Randhir Jaiswal, official spokesperson of the Ministry.

As oil tankers and cargo ships were attacked by suicide boats, drones and missiles, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar spoke with his Iranian counterpart, Seyed Abbas Araghchi, on Tuesday.

"Iran's Foreign Minister reminded that the insecure situation and problems arising for shipping in the Persian Gulf are a result of the aggressive and destabilizing actions of the United States, and the international community must hold the U.S. accountable for this situation," the Iranian Foreign Ministry had said after a call.

One of the cargo ships that was attacked in the Strait of Hormuz was Thai-flagged *Mayuree Naree*, which was headed for India. AP

Cargo ships continued to be targeted in the strait even as India and Iran remained connected at the ministerial level. A Thai-flagged ship, *Mayuree Naree*, was hit near the Iraqi port of Basra on Wednesday that led to the death of one Indian sailor. The ship was headed for Kandla port in Gujarat.

MEA's statement

Following the incident, the Ministry said, "India deplores the fact that commercial shipping is being made a target of military attacks in the ongoing conflict in West Asia. Precious lives, including of Indian citizens, have already been lost in multiple such attacks in the earlier phase of this conflict and the intensity and lethality of the attacks only seems to be increasing."

India has been expressing concern about the targeting of merchant navy ships that are stuck both inside the Gulf as well as in the Gulf of Oman near the Strait of Hormuz.

Government sources have been maintaining that Indian sailors make for a large number of sailors in such ships and Iran's attacks endanger their lives.

Already, at least four Indian sailors have been killed in attacks since the beginning of the war on February 28.

Apart from that, at least 20 other Indian sailors have been injured in multiple attacks on ships, sources have said.

Received requests for energy supplies from neighbours, says MEA

The Hindu Bureau
DELHI

India on Thursday said that it has received a request from Bangladesh to supply diesel.

Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs Randhir Jaiswal said that against the backdrop of continued conflict between the U.S.-Israel and Iran, the Maldives and Sri Lanka too have requested for energy supplies from India.

"We have received a request from the Government of Bangladesh for supply of diesel which is being examined," said Mr. Jaiswal.

> India's refining capacity, our own requirements, and diesel availability will be factored in while taking decisions
>
> **RANDHIR JAISWAL**
> MEA spokesperson

Numaligarh refinery

The official statement mentioned that India has been sending diesel from the Numaligarh refinery to Bangladesh through various modes such as "waterways, rail and later through the India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline" since 2007. The two sides had signed an agreement to supply 5,000 tonnes of high speed diesel from Numaligarh to Bangladesh in 2017.

"It bears mention that while diesel exports to Bangladesh have largely continued since 2007, India's refining capacity, our own requirements, and diesel availability will be factored in while taking decisions," Mr. Jaiswal said.

The MEA spokesperson added that "several other countries including Sri Lank and Maldives" have also made similar requests for energy supplies from India.

Saudi oil tanker reaches Mumbai after crossing the Strait of Hormuz

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

A Liberian-flagged oil tanker that set sail from Saudi Arabia on March 3 carrying around one million barrels of crude oil docked in Mumbai on Wednesday, crossing the Strait of Hormuz where marine traffic had stalled following the start of hostilities on February 28.

This is possibly the first such vessel to reach Indian shores since the beginning of the West Asia conflict. India's daily crude oil needs are some five million barrels, more than 85% of which is imported.

Shenlong, a tanker managed by Dynacom, sailed from Ras Tanura in Saudi Arabia and docked at the Mumbai port at 4.30 p.m. on Wednesday, according to the ship-tracking website marinetraffic.com.

According to Reuters, the vessel is the first crude oil tanker to reach India from West Asia since the joint strikes by the United States and Israel against Iran on February 28. State-run Bharat Petroleum Corporation is the customer.

Safe arrival: The Liberian-flagged tanker *Shenlong*, carrying crude oil from Saudi Arabia, reached Mumbai on Wednesday after crossing the Strait of Hormuz. AP

PTI reported that "another large ship is likely to reach Indian ports in a day or two". The Indian-flagged Very Large Crude Carrier with around two million barrels of Iraqi crude is headed to Paradip in Odisha. According to shipping news website *Lloyds List*, the *Shenlong* crossed the Strait of Hormuz around March 8. In a report published on March 9, it said, "Dynacom's Shenlong Suezmax transited around March 8 carrying Saudi Arabian crude loaded at the port of Ras Tanura and is listing its destination as the Indian port of Mumbai."

On March 7, a day before *Shenlong* crossed the strait, Iran thanked the Indian government for letting *IRIS Lavan* dock at Kochi on March 3. "The excellent coordination and cooperation of the Indian authorities in these difficult circumstances clearly reflect the long-standing and friendly relations between our two countries," Iran's Ambassador to India Mohammad Fathali had told ANI.

PM speaks to Iranian President, discusses situation in West Asia

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday night spoke to Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian over the phone and discussed the "serious situation" in West Asia.

Mr. Modi expressed deep concern over the escalation of tensions in the region and the loss of civilian lives as well as damage to civilian infrastructure.

The Prime Minister told the Iranian President that the safety and security of Indian nationals, along with the need for unhindered transit of goods and energy, remain India's top priorities.

"Had a conversation with Iranian President, Dr Masoud Pezeshkian, to discuss the serious situation in the region. Expressed deep concern over the escalation of tensions and the loss of civilian lives as well as damage to civilian infrastructure," Mr. Modi said in a post on social media platform X.

Narendra Modi

The Prime Minister also reiterated India's commitment to peace and stability and urged dialogue and diplomacy to end the crisis.

Mr. Modi earlier spoke to the leaders of Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Jordan, Israel and Qatar, and expressed concern over the attacks on their countries, and condemned the violation of some nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

He had also discussed the security of the Indian community residing in those countries.

No gas? Try 'lean' instant tea to lift mood

Sale of 'energy-efficient' tea has increased since the Centre issued an LPG supply alert owing to the war in West Asia; vendors hope that the shift will open new avenues for value addition and export

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The tea buyers' association here, one of the world's busiest auction centres for the beverage, found a glimmer of hope amid the gloom that gripped the industry after war broke out in West Asia.

Iran and other West Asian countries are among the largest consumers of Assam orthodox tea, and more than 40% of consignments are shipped through the Strait of Hormuz. The closure of this strait by Iran is expected to hit tea traders and planters hard.

Silver lining: Iran and other West Asian countries are among the largest consumers of Assam orthodox tea. RITU RAJ KONWAR

However, the Guwahati Tea Auction Buyers' Association has something to cheer about – sales of instant tea, specifically tea bags, have increased since the Centre issued an LPG supply alert. "Industry observers expect a rise in demand for instant tea products due to a potential shortage of LPG. This is because instant tea is more energy efficient than conventional tea, which requires boiling water, milk, and tea leaves," association secretary, Dinesh Bihani said on Thursday.

Tea manufacturers said that a prolonged war in West Asia could accelerate the growth of the value-added tea segment, which includes instant tea powders, premixes, and ready-to-drink beverages.

These products rely on processed tea extracts and offer convenience along with a longer shelf life.

"For tea-producing regions, the shift to instant tea could open new avenues for value addition and export opportunities, particularly as global demand for convenient beverage solutions continues to rise," he said.

Lacking long-term storage, India must rely on imports to manage LPG supply

EXPLAINER

M. Kalyanaraman
CHENNAI

The government had said on Wednesday that recent measures have led to a 25% increase in domestic liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) production. A quick calculation shows that this amounts to 10% of LPG consumption on a daily basis, still leaving a shortfall of 50% that will need to be filled by LPG imports quickly since India doesn't have much strategic, long-term storage.

In 2024-25, India's LPG production was some 13 million tonnes as per government data, out of a total production of 283 million tonnes of petroleum products coming from India's refineries. India's LPG consumption was around 31 million tonnes that year. Broadly, there is a 60-40 import-export split.

People standing in a queue to refill LPG cylinder in Lucknow on Thursday. SANDEEP SAXENA

Domestic LPG production comes from three sources: LPG available freely in crude oil. This is separated in the distillation process. The main source of domestic LPG is, however, the refinery, which has Fluid Catalytic Cracking Units (FCCU). The units crack the heavier fractions of crude into lighter fractions. LPG is one of the major products from FCCU. The FCCU also produces crack naptha which is processed further to produce petrol.

The operating conditions and catalysts used in FCCUs can be modified to increase LPG production. But the caveat again is that the same FCCU produces propylene along with LPG, which is separated to produce polypropylene for downstream units such as plastics and synthetic rubber.

Increasing LPG production can lead to cuts in polypropylene production as well as the quality of petrol. LPG is also produced in low quantities from catalytic reformers that make components for petrol blending. Here too, minor adjustments can be made to increase LPG yield.

The government had ordered that all refining companies must ensure that they shall not divert propane-butane for manufacture of petrochemical products or other downstream derivatives.

INBRIEF

R.N. Ravi sworn in as Governor of West Bengal

Rabindra Narayan Ravi was on Thursday sworn in as the Governor of West Bengal at a ceremony in Lok Bhavan in Kolkata. Mr. Ravi is the 22nd Governor of West Bengal and will replace C.V. Ananda Bose who resigned on March 5. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was among the dignitaries who were present at the ceremony. She greeted Mr. Ravi, and said that people of West Bengal would love him. "I am immensely blessed and profoundly humbled to have the opportunity to serve the people of West Bengal, a great land that has been the spiritual, intellectual and cultural capital of Bharat for several thousand years," Mr. Ravi said.

Activism continues with dialogue: Sonam Wangchuk

Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, who has been detained at the Jodhpur Central jail, conveyed through one of his social media accounts on Thursday that he had not stepped away from activism but it would require "clarity, unity, and sincere dialogue". The statement comes against the backdrop of an interview of his wife, Gitanjali J. Angmo, with *The Hindu* on March 9 where she remarked that Mr. Wangchuk would not pursue the path of agitation after he was released from detention under the National Security Act (NSA) but would continue to be part of the movement to demand constitutional safeguards for Ladakh through discussion and dialogue.

Air chief flies MiG-29UPG sortie from forward airbase

The Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh, flew an operational formation sortie on the MiG-29UPG fighter aircraft from a forward airbase on Thursday, underlining the Indian Air Force's focus on maintaining high operational standards and combat readiness. The formation was led by Flight Lieutenant Parvinder Singh, the IAF said. Prior to recovery, the formation executed a smart peel-off manoeuvre over the runway, demonstrating precision flying and the high level of operational training. Air Warriors at the base maintained a high state of operational readiness during the visit.

ISRO, AIIMS sign MoU for space medicine and research

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) for cooperation in space medicine and research. According to the ISRO, the MoU aims to promote joint research with a objectives of advancing human health, performance and safety during human space missions. "This cooperation is targeted to conduct ground and space-based studies to develop multidisciplinary space medicine expertise, medical devices, procedure and protocols to maintain health and performance under extreme environments as well as advance healthcare for the nation," the ISRO said.

SC to study what constitutes 'personal data' in DPDP laws

Chief Justice of India says a balance has to be struck between privacy and the right to information; court issues formal notice to Union government and asks advocate to frame questions of law

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday agreed to examine what constitutes "personal data" under India's new digital personal data law, which is being accused of using data privacy norms to block the right to information.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said the need to define "public data" and "personal data" has arisen following the implementation of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023 and its corresponding Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025.

The court issued formal notice to the Union government on a petition jointly filed by journalist Geeta Seshu and the Software Freedom Law Center, represented by senior advocate Indira Jaising and advocate Paras Nath Singh, who said the DPDP laws effectively stall journalists from accessing data of public interest concerning those who hold public offices.

> The term 'public interest' has been deleted from the DPDP Act. Journalists cannot access data which is in public interest
>
> **INDIRA JAISING**
> Senior advocate

"The term 'public interest' has been deleted from the DPDP Act. Journalists cannot access data which is in public interest. A journalist need not have personal data, but needs information which is in the public interest to satisfy the public's right to information and knowledge," Ms. Jaising submitted.

She said the Act does not clearly define terms such as "information" and "personal". The state could mount sweeping surveillance on anyone, Ms. Jaising said.

She highlighted how the Act allowed compensation for illegally accessing personal data to go directly to the government and not the injured person.

"While the DPDP Act introduces a penalty-centric framework with fines running into hundreds of crores, such penalties are payable exclusively to the Consolidated Fund of India. The data principal whose privacy is violated receives no compensation, restitution or restoration, even in cases involving identity theft, financial fraud, reputational harm or dignitary injury," the petition said.

The Chief Justice said a balance had to be struck between privacy and the right to information. One right should not compromise the other, the court said.

"At what point should data regarding a respectable person holding public office be treated as public and when should it be seen as personal," the CJI asked. The Chief Justice pointed out that an individual's data privacy has to be protected against sweeping provisions of law.

"Entire personal data of the citizenry from a substantial part of the globe are flowing into bigwig private entities. Data has become the true wealth of the day," Chief Justice Kant said.

The court asked Ms. Jaising to frame questions of law and scheduled the case for detailed hearing on March 23.

Govt. firm on norms against transpersons giving blood

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Thursday stood firm by its 2017 guidelines which exclude transgender people, men having sex with men (MSM), and female sex workers from donating blood. Insisting that they form "at-risk" population groups, the Centre told the Supreme Court that sometimes, a public health perspective must trump individual rights.

Appearing before a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati said the government's stance was based on expert advice, and kept the larger public interest in mind.

Senior advocate Jayna Kothari, for the petitioners, argued that sections of the population cannot be discriminated against on the basis of their sexuality or gender identity. The court, however, expressed its reluctance to intervene, agreeing to hear the case in detail at a later date.

PIB fact-check unit busts 50 deepfakes, says Pak. handles are spreading misinformation

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

Propaganda accounts releasing forged content on war in West Asia with claims on Indian role

The fact-check unit of the Press Information Bureau (PIB), in the past month, flagged over 50 cases of deepfakes, manipulated videos, and various other types of misinformation on social media platforms, many of which, it found, were posted by "Pakistani propaganda" handles.

About a dozen posts carried manipulated deepfakes or artificial intelligence (AI) content, raising concern over the steep rise in the use of such means to spread misinformation. Fake statements attributed to top government functionaries, including President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi were identified.

A digitally manipulated video of Mr. Modi was circulated online by Pakistani propaganda accounts, claiming that Pakistan had destroyed India's Rafale jets. "Such manipulated videos are being deliberately shared to mislead the public as part of Pakistan's ongoing misinformation campaign against India," the PIB's fact-check unit said.

A fake claim was being made through an AI-generated video of Mr. Modi, which said the Central government would provide free scooters to "women on Aadhaar cards".

Deepfakes on conflict

Amid the ongoing U.S.-Israel conflict with Iran, as stated PIB, Pakistani propaganda accounts were found sharing a manipulated video of General Dwivedi related to an Iranian ship. Based on the video, a Turkish newspaper had falsely claimed that India had admitted to sharing the Iranian ship's location with Israel. One digitally manipulated video falsely showed Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor claiming that the Indian Air Force had raised serious concerns about Tejas aircraft.

The PIB also identified a digitally manipulated video by "Pakistani propaganda account" for "falsely claiming" Defence Minister making "remarks supporting Israel's attack on Iran", the fact-check unit said.

"Caution! Pakistani propaganda accounts on social media are sharing AI-generated videos in which a person, impersonating an Indian Air Force officer, is making false claims about the Indian Air Force," the PIB fact-check unit said in a post.

The unit also flagged a "fake", Instagram reel which claimed the supply and prices of petrol and diesel in India could be affected.

'Parental income alone cannot set creamy layer status'

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The SC said the OBC creamy layer exclusion criteria is status-based.

Settling the decades-long confusion over how to calculate wealth or income to determine the creamy layer status of OBC candidates for reservation, the Supreme Court ruled this week that it "cannot be decided solely on the basis of the [parental] income".

This is likely to widen the reservation pool to include the children of senior public sector officials who had earlier been excluded on the basis of their parents' annual salary income being above the ₹8 lakh threshold.

The court said the framework to exclude the creamy layer from the OBC quota is clear that parental income from salaries and agricultural land are to be kept out while applying the income/wealth test.

A Bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and R. Mahadevan was hearing an appeal by the Union government against lower court rulings in favour of such OBC candidates. The cases arise from confusion over how to apply the income/wealth test for OBC children of PSU/PSB officials in the absence of equivalence with government posts, and whether income from salaries can be included in these calculations. During the hearings, OBC candidates selected in civil services examinations over the past decade argued that the Centre had incorrectly deemed them as part of the excluded creamy layer by including the salaries of their parents who worked in Central and State PSUs.

'Based on status'

In its March 11 judgment, the court noted that the creamy layer exclusion criteria were "status-based rather than purely income-based, reflecting the policy understanding that advancement within the governmental service hierarchy denotes social progression independent of fluctuating salary levels".

When the OBC quota was introduced in 1993, a guiding charter was created to exclude OBC candidates whose families had accumulated certain social and economic privileges over the years, known as the creamy layer.

This would then allow reservation benefits only for those declared as "non-creamy layer" candidates, based on several criteria, including a crucial income or wealth test.

The 1993 charter of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) had declared some OBC families ineligible on the basis of their occupations.

Thus, children of people in constitutional posts, senior Central and State government employees, members of the armed forces, and property owners supposedly could not avail themselves of the OBC quota for the civil services.

However, exceptions were carved out of these exclusions: for instance, children of MPs and MLAs; government officials who have been promoted, not hired, into senior positions; and owners of unirrigated agricultural land, among others, are all eligible for OBC quotas, subject to a parental annual income limit of ₹8 lakh.

However, the DoPT has differentiated in how this income test is applied. With the help of a clarificatory letter issued in October 2004, the interpretation that has been applied was that parental salaries could be counted separately to apply the income test for determining the creamy layer for candidates whose parents worked in Central or State PSUs, an interpretation that was contested in the present cases.

'Unequal treatment'

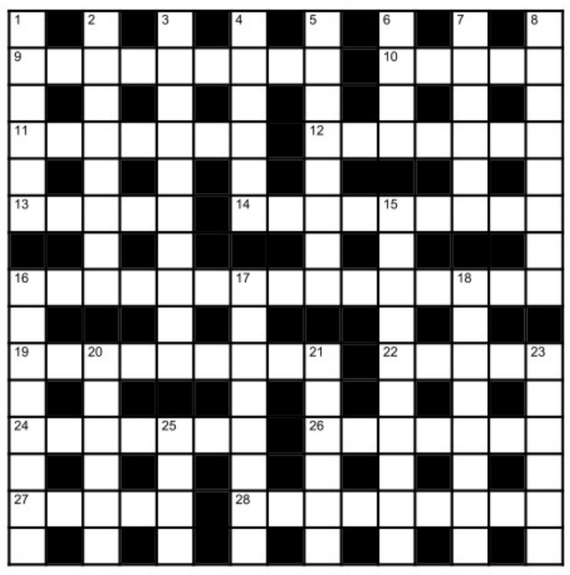
Delivering the judgment in this batch of cases, the Supreme Court said, "Treating the children of those employed in PSUs or private employment, etc., as being excluded from the benefit of reservation only on the basis of their income derived from salaries, and without reference to their posts (whether Group A or B, or Group C or D) would certainly lead to hostile discrimination between parties who are similarly placed and would amount to equals being treated unequally."

TH CROSSWORD + 14740

(set by Gussalufz)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

9 Rouse a crowd, say, with: "Let ICE fry in hell!" (9)
10 Fool's confession? Gather together (5)
11 Delegates declined drinks (had food) in retreat (7)
12 Terribly despicable (not "possibly bad"!) alignment with dark consequences (7)
13 Gathering in old city? No parking (5)
14 Super sale blowout delights (9)
16 A characteristic of a mole: rams above-ground building (9,6)
19 Setter's sixth sense rejected eating noodles with Dr. X, perhaps (9)
22 Make a hash of blowing new horn (5)
24 Slice of tasteless ham? Poor free offering in hotel (7)
26 Still harbouring a touch of resentment or done? (7)
27 Short story about something deadly and gripping (5)
28 Advocate uncle's case follows "good lie" going awry (9)

Down

1 Getting upset, some held demonstrations to interfere (6)
2 Regularly seen once, Guntur lion now is a very fast and hard-to-find traveller (8)
3 Performers bring cycles into rack (6,4)
4 Raises price of second-rate, extremely insipid drink (4,2)
5 Prepares to print test (yes, after repairs), inserting page (8)
6 Separation: wife gets everything (4)
7 Hack: become thinner consuming minimally, essentially (6)
8 Judge a rose, looking at sections repeatedly (8)
15 Unpleasant smell under butt, right? Only after scratching opening in a persistent manner (10)
16 A very quiet old place is suitable (8)
17 Arup, inform Gita: "Exposed, try to escape!" (3,3,2)
18 Have hard feelings about buggy debugger (8)
20 When a blessing carries sanction (6)
21 Parent of insect queen (6)
23 Repeats start of exercise routines without resistance (6)
25 Colour of Pandya's first tattoo (4)

SUDOKU

	2				3		1	7
					6		9	
		3	5					
8					9			5
	5		2		4		8	
4			7					6
					7	9		
	9		3					
2	1		6				5	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

No.SS6818 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

M	A	N	K	I	N	D	D	I	V	O	R	C	E
O	■	I	■	M	■	A	■	R	■	I	■	O	N
H	O	L	D	A	L	L	■	E	N	D	U	S	E	R
A	■	G	■	M	■	H	■	A	■	E	■	S	■	A
W	H	A	T	S	Y	O	U	R	P	O	I	S	O	N
K	■	I	■	■	■	U	■	■	■	G	■	E	■	G
S	U	S	H	I	■	S	T	A	I	R	C	A	S	E
■	■	■	■	L	■	I	■	P	■	A	■	■	■	■
S	I	S	A	L	H	E	M	P	■	M	U	S	I	C
C	■	I	■	U	■	■	■	E	■	■	■	T	■	A
H	I	G	H	M	O	R	A	L	G	R	O	U	N	D
E	■	N	■	I	■	A	■	L	■	E	■	M	■	G
R	O	O	I	N	E	K	■	A	S	T	A	B	L	E
Z	■	F	■	E	■	E	■	N	■	R	■	L	■	R
O	F	F	E	R	E	D	■	T	O	O	T	E	R	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	4	1	6	8	2	7	3	9
2	8	9	7	5	3	1	6	4
7	6	3	9	1	4	2	8	5
9	2	8	3	7	5	4	1	6
1	7	5	4	6	8	9	2	3
4	3	6	2	9	1	5	7	8
8	1	7	5	3	9	6	4	2
6	9	2	8	4	7	3	5	1
3	5	4	1	2	6	8	9	7

FAITH

Wisdom of the wise

In the epic Mahabharata, three things are considered the most important: the Bhagavad Gita, Vidhura Neethi, and Bhishma Upadesa. Of them, Vidura Neethi is very easy to understand and follow, even for ordinary people.

Vidura Neethi, the advice given by Vidura to King Dhritarashtra, contains essential guidelines for righteous living and wise conduct relevant to all people. In one of his discourses, Dr. Venkatesh explained, drawing on Vidura Neethi, some qualities and traits of a truly intelligent person. An intelligent person understands himself well and takes initiative in performing his duties. Whatever difficulties or disturbances arise, he does not lose patience and remains steadfast. He never deviates from the path of dharma. It is said that Vibhishana prayed to Brahma, the creator, seeking the boon that he should never transgress from the path of dharma at any time. An intelligent person carefully reflects before undertaking any action, and once a decision is made, he does not withdraw from it. He readily grasps the nuances of the work he proposes to undertake. Such a person allows others to speak and listens to them attentively.

He would not undertake any work merely because his mind longs for it. Instead, he would carefully analyse the matter and take a decision only after thorough consideration. He would not offer unsolicited advice to anyone. He would neither brood over what is lost nor grieve excessively for it. He would grasp things quickly and clearly. He would not desire things that are beyond his reach. He would remain firm and steadfast even in the face of adversity.

INBRIEF

NSE appoints 20 merchant banks for IPO book running

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) said it had appointed 20 merchant bankers for conducting its initial public offering (IPO). These include Kotak Mahindra Capital, JM Financial, Axis Capital, IIFL Capital Services, Motilal Oswal Investment Advisors, ICICI Securities, SBI Capital Markets, Nuvama Wealth Management, HDFC Bank, Avendus Capital Morgan Stanley India, Citigroup Global Markets India, J.P. Morgan India, and HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India).

BoB raises $500 million syndicated term loan facility

Bank of Baroda said it had raised a $500 million five-year syndicated term loan facility through its IFSC banking unit in GIFT City. "The transaction saw participation from 13 investors across key Asian markets including Taiwan, South Korea, Japan and Singapore, reflecting robust demand and strong investor appetite, despite a dynamic global interest rate environment," the bank said. The proceeds will be used for general banking and corporate purposes, the lender added.

Vinay Tonse to take over as Yes Bank MD, CEO on April 6

Yes Bank on Thursday announced that Vinay Muralidhar Tonse had joined as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer-designate, following approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). He has been appointed for a term of three years. He will take over from incumbent Prashant Kumar, who served as MD & CEO since March 2020 and played a pivotal role in stabilising and the bank from a near collapse, on April 6, 2026.

U.S. begins probing 'discriminatory trade policies' against India

Investigation against 16 economies, including India, bid to reimpose some sort of tariffs on trading partners once the stopgap 10% tariffs expire

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The U.S. has announced investigations against 16 economies, including India, on whether actions or policies of these countries "are unreasonable or discriminatory and burden or restrict U.S. commerce", the office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) Jamieson Greer said on Wednesday.

These investigations would be under Section 301(b) of the Trade Act of 1974, which was one of the avenues U.S. President Donald Trump had said he would explore after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down his reciprocal tariffs on February 20.

Following the court's decision, Mr. Trump imposed a 10% tariff on imports from all countries for a period of 150 days. According to trade and industry experts, the fresh investigation is an attempt by the U.S. to reimpose some sort of tariffs on its trading partners once the stopgap 10% tariffs expire.

'Evidence' against India

According to the official order, there is apparently evidence of structural excess capacity and production in India. "In 2025, India had a bilateral trade surplus with the United States of $58 billion," the order said. "India's global goods trade surplus sectors include textiles, health, construction goods, and automotive goods. For example, evidence suggests the solar module sector is plagued by excess capacity, including that India's current module manufacturing is nearly triple annual domestic demand."

India had created "significant excess capacity" in petrochem, steel, and other industries.

It added that India had created "significant excess capacity" in petrochemicals, steel, and other industries. "While its [the investigation's] impact on India's exports will be clear only after the investigation concludes, it seems the move is aimed at imposing a new tariff once the 150 days for the 10% global tariff expires," said Pankaj Chadha, chairman of the Engineering Exports Promotion Council of India.

He said this fresh development did not bode well for the Indian engineering sector, given that the 50% tariff imposed by the Trump administration on items such as steel, aluminium, auto, and auto components remained in place.

The Confederation of Indian Textile Industry has said that the recent developments add further uncertainty to the textiles and apparel sector, which it said is already under significant stress due to the developments in West Asia and the lack of a clear picture of how the U.S. tariff situation will unfold.

According to Ajay Srivastava, founder of Global Trade Research Initiative think-tank and former Director General of Foreign Trade, the revival of Section 301 investigations signals that U.S. trade policy is entering a new phase following the Supreme Court ruling that curtailed Washington's tariff powers.

However, he noted that Section 301 proceedings are not as rapid as the reciprocal tariff system that Mr. Trump had been implementing through executive orders.

Besides India, the economies being investigated are China, the European Union, Singapore, Switzerland, Norway, Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand, South Korea, Vietnam, Taiwan, Bangladesh, Mexico, and Japan.

CPI inflation quickens to 10-month high of 3.2% in February

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Retail inflation in India quickened to a 10-month high of 3.2% in February 2026, driven up by inflation in the food and tobacco categories, the latest data shows.

The Consumer Price Index data released on Thursday by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation is the second edition of the new series of the Index, and so category-wise historical data is not yet available.

However, the new series allows for a calculation of the headline inflation numbers from February 2021. Data show CPI inflation was last higher in April 2025, when it was 3.3%.

Economists, however, warn that the ongoing disruption in fuel supplies due to the conflict in West Asia would likely push up inflation in March in the electricity, gas and other fuels, and restaurant and accommodation categories of the CPI.

"As expected, the uptick was almost entirely led by the food and beverages (F&B) segment, which accounted for as much as 44 basis points of the 47 basis points rise in the headline print between these months [January and February]," Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist at ICRA said.

She added that core inflation, which excludes F&B and electricity, gas & other fuels remained unchanged at 3.4% between January and February 2026.

'As expected, the uptick was almost entirely led by the food and beverages segment'

Inflation in the food and beverages category stood at 3.35% in February, up from 2.1% in January. The other category to see markedly higher inflation was 'paan, tobacco and intoxicants', which saw inflation quicken to 3.5% in February from 2.9% in January.

Notably, the new series also shows that inflation in the 'personal care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services' has remained above 19% in both January and February, largely driven by the higher prices of previous metals.

That is, inflation in this category quickened to 19.6% in February from 19.02% in January.

West Asia crisis impact

"The main upward thrust comes from the personal care segment where inflation was 19.6%," Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist at the Bank of Baroda said. "The relentless increase in prices of silver and gold has contributed to this increase."

This will be a factor that will continue to exert pressure in March, too, given the global uncertainty, he added, saying that the rupee depreciation would also add to this.

'AC industry insulated against supply chain disruptions'

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The rise in energy cost due to the West Asia crisis is a matter of concern and has started impacting air conditioner (AC) manufacturers as well as consumers, industry officials said.

However, they said that the recent localisation and shifting of manufacturing units to India by large players had insulated them against supply chain disruptions.

The rise in raw material prices is also causing challenges. "We have been facing challenges in terms of raw metal prices, particularly copper which is a major ingredient for the Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) industry. So, the cost of equipment has become very high," said Jayanta Kumar Das, Society President, Indian Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers (ISHRAE), a technical society dedicated to advancing the HVAC and refrigeration industry.

"As far as the geo-political situation is concerned the rise is energy costs is affecting everybody. This will be affecting cost. But the advantage for us is that all major manufacturers had shifting their factories to India and this is giving them a positive impact of insulating them from supply chain disruptions," Mr. Das said while speaking at an industry event organised by ISHRAE in Mumbai.

PTA, MEG prices increase on war, impact downstream industries

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

A key input, MEG, is partly sourced from West Asia with shipments seeing many disruptions

The price of Purified Terephthalic Acid (PTA) and Mono Ethylene Glycol (MEG), raw materials used to make synthetic fibres, filament and yarn, rose by ₹20.48/kg on March 10. The prices reduced by ₹14 a kg on Wednesday. But the sudden price rise is affecting downstream industries that use PTA and MEG as raw materials.

Madhu Sudhan Bhageria, CMD, Filatex India, said the war had led to short-term volatility in the polyester value chain, mainly due to fluctuations in crude oil prices. Since polyester is a petrochemical-based product, movements in crude oil tend to influence raw material costs across the industry.

Input costs surge

Over the past two weeks, raw material prices have climbed by about ₹23/kg, moving from about ₹80 a kg to about ₹103 a kg. "However, industry's key players view this largely as a temporary movement linked to geopolitical uncertainty rather than a structural shift in costs."

There have been some adjustments in the supply chain. One of the key inputs, MEG, is partly sourced from West Asia with shipments from the region experiencing disruptions. Locally, suppliers are prioritising internal consumption, which tightened spot availability in the market, he said.

Durai Palanisamy, chairman of the Southern India Mills Association, said apart from local supplies, PTA and MEG are imported from West Asia and China too. With logistics disruptions, domestic players do not have alternatives to local supplies. "We do not know how much price hike the market can absorb," he said.

R.K. Vij, president of the Textile Association of India, said sudden rise in PTA and MEG (Melt) prices was a burden on the downstream textile value chain.

Oil shoots up

Oil prices shot up to $118 a barrel on March 9 and slid to $92 a barrel. Yet the producers of PTA and MEG hiked prices. Similarly, producers of man-made fibre and PET increased the prices by ₹20 a kg from March 10. Synthetic filament makers increased the prices by ₹6 a kg.

Mr. Bhageria added the rise in input costs has begun to reflect gradually across the man-made fibre value chain, including polyester yarn and related products.

Sugar mill body welcomes SC order

Sweet tidings: If SC had upheld Karnataka High Court order, it would have resulted in major revenue losses for sugar mills.

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

The Indian Sugar and Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association welcomed the Supreme Court order against preferential treatment for a standalone Dedicated Ethanol Plant (DEP) in allocation of ethanol to be sourced by oil marketing companies.

If the SC had upheld the Karnataka High Court order in favour of DEP, almost 199 crore litre ethanol could have shifted away from non-DEPs and sugar-based ethanol would have seen a cut of about 73 crore litre resulting in major revenue losses for sugar mills, the Association said.

'Food delivery firms may take Q4 war hit'

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Food delivery firms Swiggy and Eternal may see a moderation in gross order value (GOV) as restaurants have started either reducing menus or shutting down following a shortage in commercial gas availability, as per a brokerage.

Temporary order dip

Motilal Oswal Financial Services said Swiggy and Zomato's GOVs are likely to grow at 20% and 15.3% as of FY26. "If the commercial LPG shortage persists through the remainder of March, it could start to reflect in temporary decline in order volumes in 4Q."

About 60% of LPG is imported and commercial usage comprises 4%.

"A small restaurant typically consumes 1-2 commercial cylinders (19kg) per day, mid-size restaurants 3-5 cylinders and large hotel kitchens 6-10 cylinders daily, depending on scale and operating hours. Inventory buffers across restaurants tend to be limited. Most kitchens maintain 2-6 days of cylinder inventory. As a result, any supply disruption can begin to impact operations within 48-72 hours," the analysts said in the report.

The blockade of Strait of Hormuz, which transits about 90% of India's LPG imports, has adversely affected eateries and spread panic among consumers.

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY, O/o THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER COMPUTER DESIGN CENTER, P.W.D., PUDUCHERRY

No.897/PW/EE(D)/AE(C)/F.No.896/2025-26 Puducherry, date 12.03.2026

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

The PWD, Puducherry invites Expression of Interest (EOI) through offline mode and email from eligible consultants for **EMPANELMENT OF EXPERTS/CONSULTANTS IN VARIOUS DISCIPLINES FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY.** For more details, please visit **https://pwd.py.gov.in.**

Executive Engineer

No.930/DIP/AD(Press)/2025-26

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(Established by an Act of Parliament)
56-57, Institutional Area, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058
Website: www.sanskrit.nic.in

Advertisement No. 02/2026 Dated: 12.03.2026

NOTIFICATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR PROFESSOR

The Central Sanskrit University, Delhi invites applications from eligible candidates or nominations from prescribed official concerned for appointment of **University Chair Professor (01 post) as Bharat Ratna PV Kane Distinguished University Chair Professor (Multidisciplinary Studies).** Regarding eligibility, procedure for application/nomination, last date of submission of application, duration of chair, salary & perks, terms & conditions and other details, please visit detailed advertisement published on the University's website www.sanskrit.nic.in on **01.03.2026.**

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GGM/SZ invites E-Tender (Through two bids system) for setting up of Refreshment Room (RR), Food Plaza (FP) & Fast-Food Unit (FFU) at Railway stations over Southern Railway

Sl. No.	Unit type	E-Tender No.	Sale of Tender	Last Date & Time for submission of E-Tender
1	RR-KU	SZ/NIT/RR/2026/01	13.03.2026	13.04.2026 at 15:00 hrs
2	FP & FFU	SZ/NIT/FP-FFU/2026/01	13.03.2026	13.04.2026 at 15:00 hrs

Tender document downloading & participation can be done on website:- <www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC>

In case of any corrigendum/addendum issued on the above advertisement, it will be published only on IRCTC's website <www.irctc.com>

TELANGANA POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED
VIDYUT SOUDHA : HYDERABAD - 82.

T.No. e-60/CEG/SEG-III/E6A24/Filter Alum/TGGENCO/2026-27
Procurement of 3130MT Aluminum Sulphate, Non Ferric (Filter Alum) Technical grade as per IS-260-2024) in new 25Kg HDPE bags for various Thermal Power Stations of TGGENCO for the year 2026-27. Value of the works: ₹ **7,24,18,200/-** Scheduled Open & Closing Date: **28.02.2026 at 18:00 Hrs 01.04.2026 at 12:00 Hrs.**

T.No. e-62/CEG/SEG-III/BTPS/E8A17/TGGENCO/2026-27
BTPS - Providing Insurance Coverage to the Plant assets of BTPS under Industrial All risk (IAR) Policy Standalone Public Liability and Standalone Terrorism policy of Bhadradri Thermal Power Station, Manuguru, Bhadradri Kothagudem Dist. For a period of one year from 09.04.2026 @00: 00 Hrs to 08.04.2027 @ 24:00 Hrs. Value of the works: ₹ **5,80,17,405/-** Scheduled Open & Closing Date: **04.03.2026 at 18:00 Hrs. & 20.03.2026 at 12:00 Hrs.**

T.No. e-379/CE/O&M/KTPS-VII/P31/TGGENCO/2025-26
KTPS-VII - Procurement of cooling water Chemicals at Kothagudem Thermal Power Station Stage-VII, Paloncha, Bhadradri Kothagudem Dist. Value of the works: ₹ **28,32,000./-.** Scheduled Open & Closing Date: **24.02.2026 at 10:15 Hrs 18.03.2026 at 15:30 Hrs.**

T.No. e-446/CE/O&M/KTPS-V&VI/P-22/TGGENCO/2025-26
KTPS-V - Procurement of Dismantling, Supply Design and Engineering, Erection, Testing & Commissioning Air Handling units for Service Building & 10th UPS9(VFD) Rooms at Kothagudem Thermal Power Station Stage-V, Paloncha, Bhadradri Kothagudem Dist. Value of the works: ₹ **25,11,150/-.** Scheduled Open & Closing Date: **11.03.2026 at 19:00 Hrs 01.04.2026 at 15:30 Hrs.**

T.No. e-445/CE/O&M/KTPS-V&VI/P-21/TGGENCO/2025-26
KTPS-V&VI - Procurement of In-situ, Dual-Beam Cross-Duct Transmissometer type PM Analyzers required for Continuous Emission Monitoring system at Kothagudem Thermal Power Station Stages-V & VI, Paloncha, Bhadradri Kothagudem Dist. Value of the works: ₹ **23,89,500./-.** Scheduled Open & Closing Date: **11.03.2026 at 19:00 Hrs 01.04.2O26 at 15:30 Hrs.**

T.No. e-25/CE/O&M-II/KTPP/BMD-I/TGGENCO/2025-26
KTPP - Transportation of mill Reject ground coal from mill pits, Mil trenches, sumps and mill around area to reject coal stockyards for mills A to H of Mill reject system and clearing of spillover coal and coal powder surrounding of mills (A to H) in Boiler Maintenance Division for FY 2026-27 from actual date of utilization to till the completion of quantity at Kakatiya Thermal Power Project, Chelpur (V), Jayashankar Bhoopalapally Dist. Value of the works: ₹ **17,50,000/-** Scheduled Open & Closing Date: **04.03.2026 at 17:30 Hrs 24.03.2026 at 10:00 Hrs.**

For further Details: ***www.tggenco.com & www.tender.telangana.gov.in***

R.O. No. : 1258-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt: 12.03.2026

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
252613 007603	Steaming (Non-Coking) Coal in Bulk (Imported) with 4200 GAR of Indonesian origin.	28.03.2026

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. For further details, please visit websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/1755/Tender/2026 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

UTTARAKHAND CIVIL AVIATION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Sahastradhara Helidrome, Sahastradhara Road, P.O. Kulhan, Dehradun Pincode 248013 Email: ucadadoon@gmail.com
No. 2880/UCADA /2026 Date: 10/03/2026

ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited from Indian nationals with full particulars for the following Post on Contract Basis in the Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority, (UCADA) Government of Uttarakhand:-

S.No.	Post Name	Qualification & Experience Requirements	Vacancy	Salary	Remarks
1.	Air Traffic controller officer (ATCOS)	Minimum five years' experience in Indian air Force or Civil ATC as ATC officer/controller	06	1,50,000/- (Per Month)	For Char Dham Yatra 2026

Last Submission Date **20 March, 2026.**
Application should reach UCADA, through E-mail **ucadadoon@gmail.com** till **20.03.2026.**
Chief Executive Officer, UCADA

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL,
Dandavathi Reservoir Project Division, Shikaripura.

Short Term Tender Notification-39/2025-26 Date: 05.03.2026(Call-4)
Ref:1. Short Term Tender Notification- 18/2025-26 Date: 23-10-2025
2. Short Term Tender Notification- 24/2025-26 Date: 10-12-2025(Call-2)
3.Short Term Tender Notification-32/2025-26 Date: 23.01.2026(Call-3)
(Two document System & KPPP System only)

Short term percentage tender are invited as per K.P.P.P on behalf of Managing Director KNNL Bangalore from eligible contractors such as KPWD Class-I/CPWD Class-I and Above. The tenderers are required to submit tenders only through K.P.P. portal of Govt of Karnataka **(http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in).**

"Survey, Investigation, Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Tank Filling Scheme (Head Works consisting of construction of Barrage, Intake trough with forebay, Jack well cum pump house, Vertical Turbine Pumps coupled to Motors, Pump house electrical works, Necessary valves, Delivery Pipe, Manifold system, electrical panel, soft starter, capacitors, 11 kV transformer, 11/0.433 kV sub-station, 11 kV power line and 11 kV Terminal bay, Rising Main, Pressure Distribution) for Filling up 32 tanks of Gudavi and other MI/ZP tanks in Soraba Taluk by lifting water from Varada River near Gudavi Village including Operation and Maintenance for a period of 5 years after successful completion of work for GUDAVI TANK FILLING SCHEME on Turn-Key Basis.". (INDENT No: 3316) Work Amount put to tender **Rs. 42.06 Crores** and EMD **Rs.0.36 Crores.**

1) Date of downloading & submission of tender (through KPPP) will be on **09.03.2026 to 08.04.2026 up to 5.00 PM 2)** Date of Pre bid meeting:**23.03.2026 @11.00AM.**(O/o Chief Engineer, KNNL, UTP Zone Shimogga **3)** Opening of technical bid will be on **10.04.2026 @ 11.00 AM 4)** Financial bid will be opened after approval of technical bid.

For more details visit website from date-**09.03.2026** at **(http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in).**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer. KNNL,
DRP Division, Shikaripura

DIPR/SMG/No-57-03/zenkar/2025-26

BAGHDAD

Strikes kill at least 9 Iran-backed fighters near Iraq-Syria border

AFP

Air strikes killed at least nine Iran-backed fighters and wounded another 10 in Iraq on Thursday near the Iraqi-Syrian border, two senior security officials said. Iraqi authorities denounced the "blatant attacks" on bases that belong to the Hashed al-Shaabi, a former paramilitary group now integrated into the regular army. AFP

WEST BLOOMFIELD

Shooting suspect killed following 'incident' at Michigan synagogue

AP

A suspect involved in a shooting and vehicle ramming at Temple Israel Synagogue in West Bloomfield, Michigan, was shot dead on Thursday. Authorities confirmed no other injuries. Security exchanged gunfire while FBI agents were on scene. The synagogue was evacuated as investigations continued under lockdown. AP

JERUSALEM

Israel drops indictment of five soldiers in detainee abuse case

AP

The Israeli military said on Thursday it had dropped charges against five soldiers accused of abusing a Palestinian detainee at the high-security Sde Teiman prison, a case that had sparked widespread outrage. The Sde Teiman detention centre was created to hold detainees from Gaza early in Israel's war with Hamas. AFP

DUMA

Israel settlers attack West Bank mosque: Palestinian authorities

AFP

Israeli settlers attempted to set fire to a mosque in the occupied West Bank on Thursday, the Palestinian Religious Affairs Ministry said, in the second such incident in under a month. The incident in the village of Duma in the West Bank, involved an "arson attack on the Duma mosque and racist graffiti on its walls". AFP

Seafront strike in Beirut kills eight as Israel threatens to 'take territory'

Agence France-Presse
BEIRUT

An Israeli strike on central Beirut's seafront killed eight persons and wounded 31 on Thursday, Lebanon's Health Ministry said, as Israel threatened to expand operations and seize territory if Hezbollah does not stop its attacks.

After Hezbollah announced a new operation against Israel on Wednesday night, Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said the following day he ordered troops to "prepare for expanding" attacks in Lebanon.

Both Israel and Iran said Hezbollah on Wednesday launched a simultaneous attack with the Iranian military, while Hezbollah declared it was staging a new operation.

The Israeli military said the attack saw Hezbollah launch "approximately 200 rockets, approximately 20 UAVs (drones)" in the biggest barrage from the group since the start of the war.

Israel has also repeatedly hit the southern suburbs of Beirut, a Hezbollah stronghold, where the Israeli military said on Thursday it had struck 10 Hezbollah targets.

Trump and Iran exchange threats as war escalates

Israel claims to have struck an Iranian nuclear facility; two tankers in the Persian Gulf came under attack; Trump says he would stop Iran 'from destroying region'; Tehran says it hit Israel, U.S. bases

Stanly Johny

U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday played down the impact of rising oil prices on American economy and vowed to press ahead with the war, saying he would stop Iran "from having nuclear weapons", even as U.S. and Israeli forces continued air strikes in Iran and Tehran retaliated with missile and drone attacks across the region.

"The United States is the largest Oil Producer in the World, by far, so when oil prices go up, we make a lot of money. But, of far greater interest and importance to me, as President, is stopping an evil Empire, Iran, from having Nuclear Weapons, and destroying the Middle East and, indeed, the World," Mr. Trump wrote in a social media post.

Mr. Trump had earlier said to hit "Iran harder 20 times more" if the flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz is blocked. He also threatened to attack Iran's electricity grid. The Strait of Hormuz remains effectively closed.

Ali Larijani, Secretary of Iran's National Security Council, responded to Mr. Trump on Wednesday, saying if Iran's electricity grid is targeted, "the whole region will go dark".

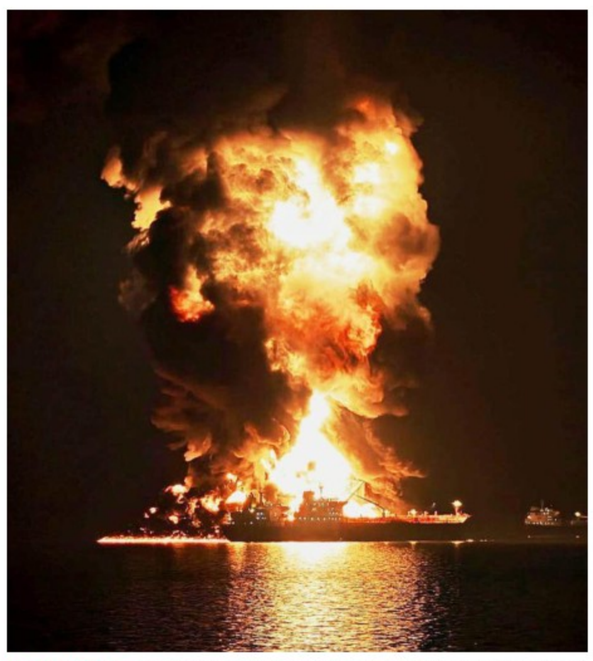
"Trump has said, 'we can take apart Iran's electric capacity within one hour, but we have not done it'. Well, if they do that, the whole region will go dark in less than half an hour and darkness provides ample opportunity to hunt down US servicemen running for safety," Mr. Larijani, one of the top officials in charge of running the country, wrote in a social media post.

Iran on Thursday fired five salvos of missiles at Israel, Israeli officials said. Two tankers came under attack near Iraq in the Gulf waters, with Iraqi authorities saying at least one crew member was killed and 38 others were rescued. Drones also hit fuel tanks at Oman's Salalah port, where operations were subsequently suspended.

Meanwhile, Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) said it struck an Iranian nuclear facility where Tehran had built "critical capabilities in the development of nuclear weapons". The facility was used for "the development of advanced explosives and for conducting sensitive experiments as part of AMAD Project," said the IDF.

The IRGC said in a statement that Thursday's wave of operations targeted Tel Aviv and "occupied al-Quds" (Jerusalem) as well as the bases of "American terrorist soldiers" in the region.

The operation was executed by firing more than 10 heavy and formidable Khorramshahr missiles with multiple-warhead capabilities, Qadr missiles with multiple-warhead capabilities, Kheybar Shekan missiles with one-ton warheads, Hypersonic Fattah missiles with one-ton warheads, and loitering drones," it added.



Up in flames: An oil tanker burns after being hit by an Iranian strike at Khor al-Zubair port near Basra, Iraq, late Wednesday. AP

'U.S. intelligence indicates that Iran govt. is not at risk of collapse any time soon'

Reuters
NEW YORK/WASHINGTON

U.S. intelligence indicates that Iran's leadership is still largely intact and is not at risk of collapse any time soon after nearly two weeks of relentless U.S. and Israeli bombardment, according to three sources familiar with the matter.

A "multitude" of intelligence reports provide "consistent analysis that the regime is not in danger" of collapse and "retains control of the Iranian public," said one of the sources, all of whom were granted anonymity to discuss U.S. intelligence findings.

The latest report was completed within the last few days, the source said. With political pressure building over soaring oil costs, President Donald Trump has suggested he will end the biggest U.S. military operation since 2003 "soon". But finding an acceptable end to the war could be difficult if Iran's hardline leaders remain firmly entrenched.

The intelligence reporting underscores the cohesion of Iran's clerical leadership despite the killing of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on February 28, the first day of the U.S. and Israeli strikes. Israeli officials in closed discussions also have acknowledged there is no certainty the war will lead to the clerical government's collapse, a senior Israeli official said.

The sources stressed that the situation on the ground is fluid and that the dynamics inside Iran could change.

Rescue workers gather outside a damaged residential building in Tehran as residents collect their belongings on Thursday. AFP

Shifting objectives

Since launching their war, the U.S. and Israel have struck a range of Iranian targets, including air defences, nuclear sites, and members of the senior leadership.

The Trump administration has given varying reasons for the war. In announcing the beginning of the U.S. operation, Mr. Trump urged Iranians to "take over your government," but top aides have since denied that the objective was to oust Iran's leadership. In addition to Khamenei, the strikes have killed dozens of senior officials and some of the highest-ranking commanders in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

Still, the U.S. intelligence reports indicate that the IRGC and the interim leaders who assumed power after Khamenei's death retain control of the country.

It is unclear how the current U.S.-Israeli military campaign would topple the government.

It would likely require a ground offensive, said the source.

China passes new law on 'ethnic unity and progress'

Reuters
BEIJING

China passed a law on a "shared" national identity among the country's 55 ethnic minority groups on Thursday, a move critics say will further erode the identity of people who are not majority Han Chinese and risk making anyone challenging that "unity" a separatist punishable by law.

Called "Promoting Ethnic Unity and Progress", the ethnic minority law aims to forge national unity and advance the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation with the Communist Party of China at its core, a draft copy of the law showed.

It was passed at the closing session of the annual meeting of the National People's Congress, China's legislature by 2,756 votes, with three opposing votes and three abstentions.

Officially, China has 56 officially recognised ethnic groups, dominated by the Han Chinese, who account for more than 91% of the country's 1.4 billion people.

China's ethnic minority populations – including Tibetans, Mongols, Hui, Manchus, and Uyghurs – are concentrated in regions that together cover roughly half of the country's land area, much of it rich in natural resources.

Xi Jinping and other Chinese leaders vote during the National People's Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. AFP

The law aims to promote integration across ethnic groups through education, housing, migration, community life, culture, tourism, and development policy, the law said.

One language

It mandates that Mandarin is the basic language of instruction in schools, and for government and official business.

In public settings, where Mandarin and minority languages are used together, Mandarin must be given "prominence in placement, order, and similar respects," the draft said.

"The state respects and protects the learning and use of minority languages and scripts," it added.

Religious groups, religious schools, and religious venues must adhere "to the direction of the Sinicisation of religion in China," according to the draft. The law also seeks to ban any interference with marriage choices based on ethnicity, custom, or religion, to enable more intermarriage between ethnic groups.

Critics say the law underlined a move towards assimilation.

Organisations and individuals outside China that carry out acts against the country "that undermine ethnic unity and progress or create ethnic separatism shall be pursued for legal liability," the draft said.

Russia blames Ukraine for strikes on gas pipeline

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

The Kremlin accused Ukraine on Thursday of targeting a major gas pipeline in southern Russia that leads to Turkiye with "reckless" drone strikes.

"At night, there were renewed attempts to attack the Russkaya compressor station with drones," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said, calling the pipeline an "international facility" that "ensures energy security for Turkiye". "These are absolutely reckless actions."

COCHIN PORT
कोचिन पत्तन प्राधिकरण
Cochin Port Authority
Applications are invited from qualified candidates for appointment to the **Senior Deputy Chief Accounts Officer - 1(UR)** class I post on regular basis:-
(Pay scale Rs.80000-220000/-)
Last date to apply : 16.04.2026
For more details visit :
www.cochinport.gov.in/Careers
Sd/-, SECRETARY
0484-258-2113

CWRDM e-Tender Notice
E-Tenders are invited for
Supply and Installation of Laser based benchtop water isotopic analyzer
Tender ID: 2026_KCSTE_843429_1
For details: **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Last Date : **23.03.2026, 5.00 pm**

RAJASTHAN STATE HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY, JAIPUR
Government of Rajasthan
No. RajKaj no. 20771151 Date: 25.02.2026
NIT No.59/2025-26
Bids for Upgradation, Development and Maintenance of Dudu to Bhatipura section of SH-02 from Design Chainage Km 130+680 (Existing chainage-130+680 i.e. intersection with Jaipur Kishangarh expressway) to Km 169+250 (Existing Chainage- Km 170+050 i.e. Intersection with SH-90)) (length 38.570 km.) in the state of Rajasthan on EPC Mode. (Package No RSHA/25-26/ EPC/ 01) are invited from the interested bidders upto 11:45 AM on 13.04.2026. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on website https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in. The approximate value of civil works is Rs. 161.30 Crores.
-e-signed-
UBN No. PWD2526WLOB24549 Arif Mohammad Khan
Member (Technical)
DIPR/C/4995/2026 RSHA, Jaipur

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD, DIVISION BHILWARA
No.- 5468 Date:- 04.03.2026
NIB CODE:- PWD2526A5987
-:Notice Inviting Bid 26/2025-26:-
Bids for Building Repair/Maintenance works are invited form interested bidders upto 06.00 PM Dated 13.03.2026 (Friday). Other particulars of bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state. The approximate values of the procurement is Rs. 1672.91 Lacs, (Total of 34 Bid)
UBNCode:- PWD2526WSOB24923, PWD2526WSOB24924, PWD2526WSOB24925, PWD2526WSOB24926, PWD2526WSOB24927, PWD2526WSOB24928, PWD2526WSOB24929, PWD2526WSOB24930, PWD2526WSOB24931, PWD2526WSOB24932, PWD2526WSOB24933, PWD2526WSOB24934, PWD2526WSOB24935, PWD2526WSOB24936, PWD2526WSOB24937, PWD2526WSOB24938, PWD2526WSOB24939, PWD2526WSOB24940, PWD2526WSOB24941, PWD2526WSOB24942, PWD2526WSOB24943, PWD2526WSOB24944, PWD2526WSOB24945, PWD2526WSOB24946, PWD2526WSOB24947, PWD2526WSOB24948, PWD2526WSOB24949, PWD2526WSOB24950, PWD2526WSOB24951, PWD2526WSOB24952, PWD2526WSOB24953, PWD2526WSOB24954, PWD2526WSOB24955, PWD2526WSOB24956
(Sandeep Jhanwar)
Executive Engineer
PWD Division Bhilwara
DIPR/C/4898/2026 Mob. No. 83023-41023

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER
PHED REGION SRI GANGANAGAR
E -mail: acephedsgnr@rajasthan.gov.in
No.:ACE/PHED/SGNR/2025-26/1846 Date: 24-02-2026
Corrigendum
NIB No. 06/2025-26
In continuation of this office NIB No. 06/2025-26 (UBN: PHE2526WLOB11487 Tender ID: 2026_PHCJA_531661_1), Corrigendum No. 01 is issued and uploaded on SPP Portal & E-Procurement Portal of the State for the following:-
1. **Insertion of Document:** The Format of Bank Guarantee for Bid Security is now included as part of the bid documents.
2. **Revision of Schedule:** The important dates for bid submission and opening have been revised.
All other terms and conditions of the original NIB/Bid document remain unchanged. All interested bidders are requested to take note of these changes and submit their bids accordingly.
(Lalit Kishore Karol)
Additional Chief Engineer
DIPR/C/4517/2026 PHED Region, Sri Ganganager

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, PHULBANI (R&B) CIRCLE, PHULBANI
E-mail : sernbphulbani@gmail.com
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB) - Bid Identification No.CCE_R and B_PLB_22 of 2025-26
No. 476 Dated : 07/03/2026

1.	The **Chief Construction Engineer, Phulbani (R&B) Circle, Phulbani** on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites **percentage rate bid** in double cover system in **ONLINE MODE** for construction of the **Building & Bridge works** as detailed in the table below from eligible contractors.		
2.	Nature of work	:	**Building & Bridge Works**
3.	No. of tenders	:	**Four Nos**
4.	Tender Cost	:	**Rs.10,000/-** (through online) only.
5.	Class of Contractor	:	**Special Class, A Class & Specialized agency having MOU with Electrical Contractor having valid Electrical License from ELBO (MV/HT/above)**
6.	Date & Time of sale & receipt of Bids	:	**10.00 AM of 16.03.2026 to 5.00 PM of 30.03.2026**
7.	Date of Opening of Bid	:	**11.00 AM of 31.03.2026**
8.	The Bidders shall have to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum/Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason.		

Chief Construction Engineer, Phulbani (R&B) Circle, Phulbani.
34001/167/2526 OIPR-34001/34129/1/25-26/0027

भारतीय उष्णदेशीय मौसम विज्ञान संस्थान, पुणे - 411 008
(पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार का एक स्वायत्त संस्थान)
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TROPICAL METEOROLOGY, PUNE - 411008
(An autonomous Institute of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India)
(Advt. No. PER/03/2026)
The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune invites applications for recruitment of following post:-

Name of the post	Number of posts
IITM Research Fellows	i) 15 Posts (Reservation: SC-03, ST-02, OBC-03, EWS-02, UR-05) ii) Backlog positions: 5 Posts (Reservation: SC-03, ST-01, OBC-01) * 2 posts are reserved for Persons with Benchmark Disability.

Detailed advertisement is available at **IITM** website - **www.tropmet.res.in/Careers.**
Last date of receipt of online application is **27/04/2026.**
Director, IITM, Pune

SPECIAL PLAYER

Don't see the point in Dhoni batting at No. 8 or 9: Pujara

FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Cheteshwar Pujara believes that Chennai Super Kings' talisman M.S. Dhoni should come up the batting order in the upcoming IPL. "I don't see the point in Dhoni batting at No. 8 or 9 because he has the potential to turn games around single-handedly, something no other batter in the CSK team can do," said Pujara.

INSIDE INFORMATION

Samson's presence will be a huge advantage for CSK against RR: Irfan

FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Sanju Samson's presence will make a lot of difference for Chennai Super Kings because no one knows Rajasthan Royals better than him. You will get inside information about how that team plays, how it approaches the PowerPlay, the middle overs, its mindset and bowling as well — Irfan Pathan on CSK's opener against RR.

LEARNING FROM THE BEST

I hope I can emulate the success of Watson, Russell: Ramandeep

FILE PHOTO: SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Kolkata Knight Riders all-rounder Ramandeep Singh feels working with coaches Shane Watson and Andre Russell would allow him to take his game to the next level. "Having Watson and Russell in the dugout is a blessing. I want to absorb as much as I can from them. I hope I can emulate their success in match-defining moments".

NEW SKIN

Punjab Kings unveils its jersey for the upcoming IPL season

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Punjab Kings on Thursday unveiled its jersey for the upcoming Indian Premier League season. The jersey comprises the brand's signature colours red and blue, which, according to the franchise, combines energy, pride and fearless attitude. PBKS will begin its campaign against Gujarat Titans in New Chandigarh on March 31.

Marijne wants the Indian players to be more precise with finishing

The head coach reserves special praise for Navneet, who scored a hat-trick against Wales, but is quick to emphasise that the performance was a collective effort; the Dutchman credits former junior team coach Wonink for making his task easier

WWC QUALIFIERS

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

Having already secured a spot at this year's FIH Women's World Cup ahead of the clash with Wales, India produced its most fluid and attacking display of the ongoing Qualifiers at the G.M.C. Balayogi Hockey Ground here on Wednesday.

The host built on it with a convincing 4-1 victory, sparking celebrations in front of a healthy turnout of fans who shared in the team's joy.

Head coach Sjoerd Marijne, though pleased with the result, urged the '*Bharat ki Sherniyan*' to be more clinical.

"Am I happy? Yes and no. I told the girls that when you're winning, everything looks perfect, but that was not the case. The only thing I could blame them (against Wales) is that we didn't score more goals. I'm happy that we created opportunities but we really have to be more careful and precise with the ball," he told reporters.

On the attack: Navneet and Lalremsiami in action against Wales. K.V.S. GIRI

"But that's my job, to demand more and more. We want the benchmark to be higher and higher. If you see the attacks we had, how fast it went, that's the way we want to play."

Marijne reserved special praise for Navneet Kaur, who struck a hat-trick, but was quick to emphasise that the performance was a collective effort.

"She's an absolute top player in the world and she's in her prime. She also takes a leadership role, which is very important. We're very happy with her performance but, also, someone has to give the ball to her and that is also very important."

Navneet admitted the extra spark in her performance against Wales stemmed from a desire to make amends following India's draw with Scotland. She also echoed her coach's view that the team could've made better use of its chances.

"It was a nice match but we could've scored more, especially field goals. We got a lot of chances."

Reflecting on the current squad compared to the one he coached during his first stint, Marijne credited the groundwork laid by Erik Wonink for making his task easier.

"Erik, who was involved for a long time in the junior programme, has eight of his girls in the squad now. They have benefitted from the way they've been educated".

It's time for the *Sportstar* Aces Awards 2026

Sports Bureau

The eighth edition of the *Sportstar* Aces Awards will be held at the Taj Mahal Palace in Mumbai on Friday, honouring the athletes, teams, and defining moments that shaped the past year in Indian sport.

The past year marked a significant step for Indian women's sport. The women's cricket and kabaddi teams lifted World Cup titles in their respective disciplines, while the Indian blind women's cricket team created history by winning the inaugural Blind Women's T20 World Cup.

These achievements build on a legacy shaped by trailblazers like Shantha Rangaswamy, Diana Edulji, Karnam Malleswari, P.V. Sindhu, and Sania Mirza, whose success helped widen the pathway for future generations.

The *Sportstar* Aces Awards 2026 celebrate this intersection of legacy and promise. The awards feature five Popular Choice categories: Sportstar of the Year (Male), Sportstar of the Year (Female), National Team of the Year, Club or State Team of the Year, and Sporting Moment of the Year.

These honours, which involve the broader community in the awards exercise, have received over four lakh votes this year.

Three special honours will also be conferred: the Award of Excellence, the Ace of Aces, and the International Icon.

The Chairperson's Award for Sports for Social Good will recognise individuals or organisations that have used sport to drive meaningful social change.

The winners have been chosen by a distinguished jury chaired by Sunil Gavaskar, with M.M. Somaya, Abhinav Bindra, Viswanathan Anand, Anjali Bhagwat, and Aparna Popat serving as panel members.

The 2026 *Sportstar* Aces Awards are presented by Amul, co-presented by Casagrand in association with SRM Institute of Science and Technology.

SBI, Christ University, Bharat Petroleum, LIC, Sports Authority of Telangana, NTPC, Indian Softball Cricket Foundation, Jaquar And Company Private Limited are associate partners. Reva University is the education partner.

Blue Star is the cooling partner while *Times Now* is the telecast partner.

How the Indian women sealed their spot in the World Cup even before final pool match

Dominant display: India proved too good for Wales. K.V.S. GIRI

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

Even before its final Pool B match of the Qualifiers against Wales on Wednesday, India had secured its place in this year's FIH Women's World Cup. The 4-1 win was simply the icing on the cake.

Here's how the Indians sealed their qualification for the marquee event. Under FIH rules, two qualification tournaments – one in Hyderabad and the other in Santiago, Chile – determine the final seven teams that make the World Cup cut.

The top-three teams from each tournament qualify directly, while the seventh spot goes to the best fourth-placed team across both events.

Chile, Australia and Ireland claimed the three direct qualification spots in Santiago while Japan, ranked 15th in the world, finished fourth. Three teams will also qualify directly from the Hyderabad leg. India is set to face Italy in the semifinals, while England will take on Scotland in the other last-four clash on Friday.

Even if India loses both the semifinal and the third-place playoff, it will finish ahead of Japan in the race for the best fourth-placed team, thanks to a six-place advantage in the world rankings.

I always wanted to do the tough job, says Bumrah

Bumrah. VIJAY SONEJI

ANI
AHMEDABAD

India pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah expressed deep satisfaction after playing a decisive role in the Men in Blue's T20 World Cup triumph.

The 32-year-old said that delivering in crucial moments had always been the driving force behind his cricketing journey.

Speaking in a video shared by the BCCI, Bumrah said: "I always wanted to do the tough job.

"I've played cricket for that. When I'm able to make a difference, it gives me so much joy. No better feeling than that. I played all my cricket here (Ahmedabad) and come up the ranks by playing for Gujarat over here. Winning the World Cup here and being the Player-of-the-Match are special."

Bumrah recalled the disappointment of narrowly missing out on the 2023 ODI World Cup title in Ahmedabad.

"The last time we fell just short, this time we got over the line. My son was here, he was there last time as well. My mum also came and it was really special. I do not know about full circles, but I am really, really happy. Back-to-back World Cups (T20s) never really happen. I am grateful".

MMSC to host India's first international karting meet in September

MOTORSPORTS

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

The Madras Motor Sports Club (MMSC) will host India's first-ever international karting competition, the FIA-CIK Arrive and Drive, at the Madras International Karting Arena (MIKA) in September.

Making the announcement at the MMSC annual awards function that honoured the 2025 National Racing Championship winners here on Thursday, MMSC vice-president Vicky Chandhok said: "The meet at the MIKA circuit will be one of the three rounds, and we will see karters from across the globe competing in it. It is the first of its kind in India."

It was also announced that the winner of the 2025 MRF Formula 2000 championship will be awarded an all-expenses-paid test drive with the Double R Formula 3 team, run by former F1 champion Kimi Raikkonen and Steve Robertson.

"This is a big step up for the MRF F2000 champion in terms of experience and exposure," Chandhok said.

Arun Mammen, vice-chairman and Managing Director, MRF Ltd., outlined his company's involvement in motorsports.

He reiterated that MRF would continue to support motorsports in India across disciplines.

The conquerors: The MRF MMSC FMSCI National four-wheeler and two-wheeler champions with MRF vice-chairman and Managing Director Arun Mammen, seventh from left. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"We will continue to make motorsports more popular in India.

"We see encouraging signs that the government is taking to host world-class events in India," Mammen, the chief guest of the function, said.

"We possess the capability to test and develop tyres in the quickest possible manner as we have our own specialised tyre testing facility with multiple tracks – the only facility of its kind in India," added Mammen.

The 2025 National Racing Championship winners:
MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship:
Pro-Stock 301-400cc: Rider Sparks Racing); **Team:** Motul Sparks Racing.
Stock 301-400cc (Novice): Rider: Varun Patil (Mad Rabbit Racing); **Team:** Mad Rabbit Racing.
Stock 165cc (Novice): Rider: Rajender Beedani (MAI Racing); **Team:** MAI Racing.
Girls (Stock 165cc): Rider: Jagathishree Kumaresan (One Racing); **Team:** One Racing.
One-Make Championships: Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup (CB 300F): Rider: R. Solomon.
Petronas TVS-Open (Apache RR 310): Rider: Mohan Babu.
Petronas TVS Rookie (Apache RTR 200): Rider: Hari Haran.
Petronas TVS Girls (Apache RTR 200): Rider: Jagathishree Kumaresan.
Petronas TVS Electric RTE: Rider: Sarthak Chavan.
Petronas TVS Media: Rider: Saran Kumar E. (Rev Nitro).
MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship: MRF Formula 2000: Driver: Ishaan Madesh; **MRF Formula 1600: Driver:** Sai Shiva Makesh Sankaran.
Indian Touring Cars: Driver: Biren Pithawalla (Team N1 Racing); **Team:** Buzzing Hornet.
Indian Touring Cars 1625: Driver: Vidyaprakash Damodaran (Team Performance Racing); **Team:** Team Performance Racing.
Indian Junior Touring Cars: Driver: Viswas Vijayaraj (Team Performance Racing); **Team:** Team Performance Racing.
Super Stock: Driver: T.S. Diljith (DTS Racing); **Team:** DTS Racing.
Formula LGB 1300 (Open): Driver: Vinith Kumar (DTS Racing); **Team:** DTS Racing.
Formula LGB 1300 (Junior): Driver: Vinith Kumar (DTS Racing); **Team:** DTS Racing.
MRF Saloons: Driver: Akshay Muralidharan.
Volkswagen Polo Cup: Driver: Aman Nagdev.
champion: Rahil Pillarisetty (RACR Castrol Power1); **Team champion:** Petronas TVS Racing.
Pro-Stock 165-200cc: Rider: P.M. Soorya (Chandra LGE Racing); **Team:** Chandra LGE Racing.
Super Stock Intermediate (165cc): Rider: Raj Kumar (Motul

INBRIEF

Kiran knocks out Loh; Srikanth bows out

Kiran George shocked former World champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore 23-21, 21-19 in the opening round of the Swiss Open badminton tournament in Basel on Wednesday. Kiran, ranked 42 in the world, will meet Hong Kong's Jason Gunawan. The Hong Kong shuttler ended the campaign of former World No. 1 K. Srikanth, winning 15-21, 21-12, 21-4. India's mixed doubles pair of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto stunned fourth seeds Jesper Toft and Amalie Magelund of Denmark 21-15, 21-14 in the first round.

Gunjan, Radhamani and Chandrika register wins

The Indian Youth team recorded a series of strong performances on the fifth day of the World Boxing Futures Cup in Bangkok, with Gunjan, Radhamani Longjam and Chandrika Pujari registering victories in their respective bouts. Gunjan (48kg) secured a 5-0 unanimous decision win over Poland's Katarzyna Gornisiewicz, Radhamani (57kg) defeated Ecuador's Melissa Carrion when the referee stopped the contest in the first round, and Chandrika Pujari (50kg) posted an unanimous victory over the USA's Ruby Lopez. However, Prachi (60kg) went down 5-0 to Slovakia's Karolina Kollarova and Morocco's Marouane Jaafri got the better of Priyansh Sehrawat 5-0 in the men's 70kg category.

Trump says Iran shouldn't come to FIFA World Cup

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Thursday that Iran should not participate in the upcoming FIFA World Cup in North America, just days after telling FIFA's chief that the Iran national team would be welcome despite the war. "The Iranian national football team is welcome to The World Cup, but I really don't believe it is appropriate that they be there, for their own life and safety," Trump posted on his Truth Social platform.

Anukriti and Kishan take lead in National tenpin bowling

Anukriti Bishnoi from Haryana took the lead in the women's division at the end of round one of the ARC 34th National tenpin bowling championships at Amoeba in Bengaluru. Anukriti scored a total pinfall of 2071, finishing top with an average of 172.58. Shabeena Kasmani (Maharashtra) is in second position with a total pinfall of 2048. In the men's division, R. Kishan continues to lead with a total pinfall of 3767. Dhruv Sarda (Delhi, total pinfall 3714) sits in second position.

Defender Mendy to miss Real Madrid's next league match

Real Madrid left-back Ferland Mendy will miss his team's next league match and possibly more after being substituted at half-time against Manchester City because of an apparent injury, coach Alvaro Arbeloa said. "We don't know yet what it is, but it doesn't look good," Arbeloa said. Mendy has been out for most of the season since injuring a muscle in November but returned to play all 90 minutes in last Friday's league win over Celta Vigo. However, Arbeloa acknowledged he may have brought Mendy back too soon. "I appreciate his effort, after so long out giving him two games was a risk".

Dortmund extends deal with Nmecha until 2030

Borussia Dortmund on Wednesday announced the extension of Felix Nmecha's contract by two years until 2030. "I am very grateful for the club's trust. I want to repay that trust by giving my best for Borussia Dortmund," Nmecha said in a statement.

LIVE TELECAST

Formula One: Chinese GP (Sprint), F1 TV, F1 TV Pro App & FanCode, 1 p.m.
Bangladesh vs Pakistan: 2nd ODI, FanCode, 1.45 p.m.
I-League: Sony Sports Ten 1, 5 & LIV, 4 & 6.30 p.m.
Hockey: Women's WC Qualifiers (semifinals), Star Sports Khel & JioHotstar, 5.15 p.m.; **India vs Italy,** 7.30 p.m.
ISL: Sony Sports Ten 2 & FanCode, 7.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 1 a.m. (Saturday)
Serie A: DAZN, 1.15 a.m. (Saturday)
LaLiga: FanCode, 1.30 a.m. (Saturday)

Valverde 'tricks as Real takes control with thumping win over Man City

PSG slams five past Chelsea; Arsenal salvages a draw at Leverkusen with late goal; Bodo/Glimt's Cinderella story continues at Sporting

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Unlikely hero: Real's Valverde fires in his third of the night against City. REUTERS

Federico Valverde scored an unlikely hat-trick as Real Madrid trounced Manchester City 3-0 in the first leg of their Champions League last-16 tie Wednesday, while holder Paris Saint-Germain beat Chelsea 5-2.

Premier League leader Arsenal snatched a 1-1 draw at Bayer Leverkusen to preserve its unbeaten record in Europe this season, while Bodo/Glimt continued its fairytale run with a 3-0 win over Sporting.

City could have suffered an ever heavier defeat but Donnarumma saved a second-half penalty from Vinicius Junior after the City goalkeeper brought down the Brazilian.

PSG has one foot in the quarterfinals after two late goals from Khvicha Kvaratskhelia at the Parc des Princes.

Bradley Barcola fired PSG in front but Malo Gusto's scruffy effort skipped past Matfei Safonov to bring Chelsea level.

Ousmane Dembele finished off a clinical counter to restore the lead, only for Enzo Fernandez to reply once more for Chelsea.

A mistake from Filip Jorgensen saw Vitinha lob the Chelsea goalkeeper to put PSG on top for the third time, with Kvaratskhelia hammering in a superb fourth and then potentially applying the fatal blow for Luis Enrique's side in stoppage time.

Arsenal needed an 89th-minute penalty from Kai Havertz against his former club to snatch a draw away to Bayer Leverkusen.

Robert Andrich headed in a corner for Leverkusen moments into the second half.

But Havertz came off the bench and converted from the spot after a foul on Noni Madueke to ensure Arsenal remain favourite to reach the quarterfinals.

Bodo/Glimt enjoyed another remarkable Champions League night as it swept Portugal's Sporting aside 3-0 to register its fifth win in a row in the competition.

The results:

Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Andrich 46) drew with Arsenal 1 (Havertz 89-pen); Bodo/Glimt 3 (Brunstad Fet 32-pen, Blomberg 45+1, Hogh 71) bt Sporting 0.

PSG 5 (Barcola 10, Dembele 40, Vitinha 74, Kvaratskhelia 86, 90+4) bt Chelsea 2 (Gusto 28, Fernandez 57); Real Madrid 3 (Valverde 20, 27, 42) bt Manchester City 0.

Draper outlasts Djokovic; Alcaraz in cruise control

TENNIS

Agencies
INDIAN WELLS

Draper. AFP

Novak Djokovic was dumped out by Jack Draper in a slugfest as the defending champion won 4-6, 6-4, 7-6(5) to reach the quarter-finals of the BNP Paribas Open here.

World No.1 Carlos Alcaraz sailed into the last eight of the Masters 1000 event for the fifth straight year and there were easy wins for Daniil Medvedev and Cameron Norrie.

But Britain's Draper did it the hard way, wearing down 38-year-old Djokovic in a punishing third set to deny the Serb superstar his first return to the quarterfinals since he won his fifth Indian Wells title in 2016.

He next meets Medvedev, who beat American Alex Michelsen 6-2, 6-4.

Alcaraz advanced with a sparkling 6-1, 7-6(2) victory over Casper Ruud, extending his perfect start to 2026.

Yuki in doubles semis

India's Yuki Bhambri entered his maiden ATP Masters 1000 semifinal as he and his Swedish partner Andre Goransson defeated Alexander Erler and Andrea Vavassori 6-3, 7-6(2).

The Indo-Swedish duo will take on France's Arthur Rinderknech and Monaco's Valentin Vacherot, who beat the Russian duo of Andrey Rublev and Karen Khachanov 6-3, 6-4.

IGPL and Liv Golf announce formal collaboration

Sports Bureau

Big step forward: Rahul Singh, Uttam Singh, Mani Indhar, Leander Paes, Scott O'Neil and Ross Hallett after the deal. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Indian Golf Premier League (IGPL), on Thursday, announced a formal collaboration with the LIV Golf International Series to provide direct access and entry for Indian golfers to various global events.

Through the partnership, IGPL's leading players would earn spots in various International Series events across the calendar.

The collaboration was formalised on the sidelines of Aramco LIV Golf Singapore in the presence of LIV Golf CEO Scott O'Neil and IGPL CEO Uttam Singh Mundy among others.

"LIV Golf is committed to growing the global ecosystem, expanding player opportunities and rewarding top performance around the world. Aligning IGPL with LIV Golf and The International Series helps create a ladder for talented players to progress through these pathways," O'Neil said.

Rahul Singh, Head of The International Series, Mani Indhar, Head of IGPL International Partnerships, IGPL franchise owner Leander Paes and Ross Hallett, Head of Events, LIV Golf, were also present.

Leclerc hopeful of a Ferrari turnaround

FORMULA ONE

Agence France-Presse
SHANGHAI

Leclerc. REUTERS

Charles Leclerc said on Thursday he hoped the Chinese year of the horse would bring Ferrari luck in Shanghai after a torrid race there 12 months ago.

Both Ferraris were sensationally disqualified from the 2025 Chinese Grand Prix after the race for "excessive plank wear" on the undersides of their cars.

China ushered in the new year of the horse last month and Leclerc reckoned that could be a good omen for Ferrari, who famously feature a back prancing horse or "Cavallino" on their badges.

"I've been with the team for many years and I've been waiting for the year of the horse since the first year I joined the team," the driver told reporters ahead of this weekend's Chinese Grand Prix.

"I hope that this year is our one, but we are against very tough competition," added Leclerc.

"I think Mercedes are quite a bit ahead at the moment but little by little, I think we can catch them," said Leclerc.

Seven-time world champion Hamilton was a surprise winner of the sprint race at the Shanghai International Circuit last year in an otherwise difficult debut season in an underperforming 2025 Ferrari.

> I hope that this year is our one, but we are against very tough competition

Hamilton is much happier this season, but cautioned it was still early days.

"I think it will still be very tough to beat Mercedes this weekend," Hamilton told reporters.

"You have to assume the others will be picking up the pace, McLaren will pick up the pace and the second Red Bull will be in the fight as well.

"So I think we will just focus on doing the best job we can and extracting the most from the car."

Sumit Antil reiterates his dominance, targets 75m

PARA ATHLETICS

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Peerless: Antil underlined his credentials as perhaps the best para athlete in the country. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In a three-man, all-Indian field, Sumit Antil proved why he is perhaps the best para athlete in the country.

The double Olympic and triple World champion breezed to gold on the second day of the World Para Athletics Grand Prix here on Thursday even as Indians continued to dominate the proceedings.

Antil, managed a best throw of 69.25m in the F43/F44/F64 javelin throw, far below his personal bests but still almost 13 metres better than second-placed Pushpendra Singh (56.91m), then expressed satisfaction at the mark in what is technically still his off-season.

"I am still in my loading phase at the moment and we have several tournament lined up this year, so I was not expecting anything exceptional. I had planned for 66-68m so I am happy with going past 69m. Hopefully it will get better as I compete more.

"While the main target, of course, is the Asian Games, the aim will be to get a good mark and go big at least once before that, Antil said after his event.

As one of the few big names in what is a largely second-string Indian field, Antil is also among the rare athletes who prefers to train at home rather than go overseas.

"I have trained abroad also but I am more comfortable in India only. The facilities at SAI centre, Sonepat are as good as anywhere else and I can always travel for short, specific stints if needed. The focus is now on strength training and injury prevention without changing technique. The target remains 75m but everything depends on the right conditions," he added.

Important results (winners only):

Men: 400m (T12): Mohit Pal (54.39s); **400m (T20):** Sergei Makarov (Rus, 49.20s); **400m (T46-47):** Bhavikkumar Bharwad (49.89s); **400m (T53-54):** Manojkumar Sabapathi (54.33s); **shot put (F46):** Rohit Kumar (14.35m); **long jump (T42-63):** Shailesh Kumar (5.47m); **long jump (T37-38):** Vladislav Kostin (Rus, 5.24m); **Javelin (F40-41):** Sunil Kumar (32.58m); **javelin (F43-44, F64):** Sumit Antil (69.25m).

Women: 400m (T20): Natalia Sainchina (Rus, 1:00.52); **shot put (F11-12, F20):** Marta Prokofyeva (Rus, 12.46m); **shot put (F36-37, F40):** Lakshmi (7.76m).

Last batch of South Africa, West Indies players leaves India

Agence France-Presse
MUMBAI

The final batch of players from South Africa and the West Indies has left India after being stranded for more than a week following the T20 World Cup, the International Cricket Council said on Thursday.

International air travel was thrown into chaos after airlines cancelled or rerouted flights because of the war in West Asia.

The ICC said that in the last 24 hours "South Africa's remaining 29 members and the West Indies' final 16 members have departed on flights to their respective homelands".

It added the departures brought to a close "a complex operation that has taken place under exceptionally challenging global travel conditions".

Cricket West Indies had called the uncertainty surrounding its players' return "increasingly distressing" and pointed to "continued delays with charter flight arrangements organised by ICC".

The ICC on Wednesday rejected suggestions of bias after England departed 36 hours following its semifinal exit on a charter flight.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521

No: CEE/Tr(Op)Z/KLB/SEE(O)/AEE-1/2025-26/15675 Date: 11.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

KPTCL, Transmission (Operations) Zone, Kalaburagi invites bids from the eligible bidders against Bid Enquiry No: **CEE/OPER/KLB/SEE(O)/ AEE-1/2025-26/Survey Works-10/ 220kV Sedam-Ramsamudra-RTPS-call-3 Dtd:10.03.2026** for "Conducting detailed survey for the work of Re-Construction of **220kV Sedam- Ramsamudra- RTPS** DC line on DC towers including Ramsamudra LILO line by replacing existing drake conductor by Drake equivalent HPC to an extent of 114kms, in Raichur, Yadagir and Kalaburagi district coming under jurisdiction of operation division KPTCL Yadagir - based on the Modern Survey Techniques-**Call-3".**

For more information log on to KPTCL website: **https:/kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL" or https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **16.03.2026.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Ele)
Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavan, Sedam Road, Kalaburagi.

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI - 221004

AUCTION PROGRAMME NOTICE NO.GSD/BLW/SCRAP/01/2026-27 DATE:12.03.2026

Following is the schedule of e-auction to be held in the month of **'April, May & June' 2026 every Wednesday** for sale of scrap under the jurisdictions of GSD / BLW, Varanasi. **Types of Auction:** e-auction from (10:30 Hrs.), **Depot:** GSD / BLW / Varanasi, **e-auction Date of April - 2026 (Wednesday):** 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th, **e-auction Date of May - 2026 (Wednesday):** 6th, 13th, 20th, -,-, **e-auction Date of June - 2026 (Wednesday):** 03rd, 10th,17th, 24th,-,-.You are requested to actively participate in the above scheduled e-auction. For details please visit **IREPS** website at **www.ireps.gov.in**

PRO/BLW/S-63 Dy.CMM/Depot

/blwvaranasi Website- blw.indianrailways.gov.in

IN THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - II, BENGALURU

BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House,
Rajbhavan Road, Bangalore - 560001.

O. A. No. 2206 / 2024.

Punjab National Bank
H.S.R. Layout Branch, Bangalore. ... Applicant
VS
1. Mr. Tobaco Mohamed Musavvir S/o. Mr. Mohamed Tobaco Kateel
2. Smt. Somaiya Musavvir W/o. Sri. T.M. Musavvir
3. Mr. Tobaco Mohamed Khaleel H/o. Late Smt. Farhana Talath
4. Mr. Aakif Nihal S/o. Late Farhana Talath
Defendant Nos. 1 to 4, Residing at No. 23, 1st FLoor, Ex-Servicemen Colony, R.T. Nagar, Bangalore - 560032. ... Defendants

NOTICE ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993

Whereas, the applicant has instituted an application under Section 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against you for the Recovery of sum of **Rs. 1,27,40,372.02 (Rupees One Crore Twenty Seven Lakhs Forty Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Two and Paise Two Only),** together with current and future interest and other reliefs. The above Defendant is therefore, hereby directed to before the Tribunal in person or through an advocate or through authorized agents in support of their defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on the **15-04-2026 at 10.30 A.M.** as to why the reliefs prayed for should not be granted.

Take notice in case of default the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of this Tribunal on this the **24.02.2026**

Seal

Sd/- Registrar
Debt Recovery Tribunal - 2
Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the General Public that my Client intends to purchase Immovable Vacant Residential Property being entire building bearing **No.6-Ground Floor, E-Katha No.8756137072, No.6/1-First Floor, EKatha No.8202429280, No.6/2–Second Floor, E-Katha No.3725818441,** measuring East to West -19¾ Ft, and North to South-25 Ft, bounded on East-Private Property, West-Adjacent Schedule B Property(Property No.7/1), North-Gabriel's Property, South-L No.6th Street.

AND Property bearing No.7/1, Old No.7, E-Katha No.2460622892, measuring East to West - 10.9 Ft, and North to South-10.3 Ft, bounded on East-Adjacent Schedule A Property (Property No.6), West-Private Property, North-Gabriel's Property, South-Adjacent Schedule A Property (Property No.6).

Both Situated at **L NO 6TH STREET, ASHOK NAGAR, BENGALURU,** coming under BBMP/GBA, by paying substantial amount to the sellers Mr.Paul Augustus, Mr.Nazarious Swamy, Mrs.Selin Swamy, Mr.Richards Stephen, Mrs. Maria Modonna Mrs.Maria Monica, Mr.Maria Anthony Aloysivs, Mrs.Sophia Mthews, Mrs.Maria Cynthia, and Mr.Jerad Navaraj, R/a No.6, and No.7, L No.6th Street, Ashok Nagar, Bengaluru.

Any person/s/government body/financial institutions/bank/s having any right, title, claims, interest or objections in respect of the said Property shall register the same in writing with documentary proof with the undersigned subsisting his/her/its/their claims within **Seven (7) Days** from the date of publication of this Public Notice. If no valid objections are received within the stipulated time, it will be presumed that there are no claims/objections and my Client will then be free to conclude the transaction in respect of the said Property in My client's favor without any notice. Any objection thereafter will not be entertained.

Drafted by :
ILAHI-BAKASH, SYED ILYAS, Advocates, LEGAL WRITES
No. 1, Ist Floor, LAKSHMI COMPLEX, No.450/14/1, 27th Cross, 10th Main, 4th Block, Jayanagar, BANGALORE-560 011. M : 9342412575,9742525925.

TIRUPPUR CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Notice for Inviting Short E-Tender

Roc.No.E1/1503/2025 Date: 12.03.2026

1. E-Tenders are invited in **Two Cover System** from the registered and eligible bidders for **"Operation and Maintenance of AMRUT (2017-20) Under Ground Sewerage System to Package-I (Sewer Zone.5,6,7)" under in General Fund 2025-26.**
2. Total Project cost is **Rs.352.00 Lakhs.**
3. The details of the tender shall be obtained from web portal **https://tntenders.gov.in**
4. The tender documents shall be downloaded from **13.03.2026** to **30.03.2026** through the portal **https://tntenders.gov.in**
5. The Last date for downloading the tender document and the last date for uploading / submission of filled up tender document is upto **3.00 PM** on **30.03.2026**.
6. The received tenders will be opened at **3.30 PM** on **30.03.2026** at the **Office of Tiruppur City Municipal Corporation, Municipal Office Road, Tiruppur – 641 604.**
7. The value of each works and the details of Earnest Money Deposit and the Eligibility of bidders are given in the concern work tender document.

DIPR/1762/TENDER/2026

Commissioner,
Tiruppur City Municipal Corporation

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.

(Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Kerala)
THYCAUD P.O., THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695014
Tele:0471-2945646, 2945600
website: www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, e-mail: eptenders.kmscl@kerala.gov.in
CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No. KMSCL/EP/10353/2022 Dated : 12.03.2026

e-TENDER NOTICE (Running Contract)

Online bids are invited for the supply and installation of the following equipment for various Government healthcare institutions across Kerala

Sl. No	Tender No.	Description	Online Pre-Bid Meeting	Last date of Online submission
1.	T591/2026	Procurement of Cardiac Consumables (Category I)	21.04.2026 11.00 am.	08.05.2026 5.00 p.m.
2.	T592/2026	Micromanipulator with accessories, Air Handling unit for IVF Lab, Battery operated power drill with Reamer saw and accessories, Syringe pump,Advanced Phaco Emulsification System	23.04.2026 11.00 am.	11.05.2026 5.00 p.m.
3.	T593/2026	Modular Operation Theatre Type B, High End Image Intensifier C-Arm, Grossing work station, Arthroscopy Camera & Instruments and shaver system model B, Blood Gas Analyzer – 500tests/month, Blood Gas Analyzer – 200tests/month	25.04.2026 11.00 am.	13.05.2026 5.00 p.m.

Tender documents and all other information related to tender and bidding process can be downloaded from the website www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.

Sd/- Managing Director (Tender Inviting Authority)

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India

भारत सरकार का उपक्रम A Government of India Undertaking

NIFT CAMPUS BRANCH
No. 2735, 27th Main, Opp to NIFT College, HSR Layout, Sector 2, Bangalore-560102

DEMAND NOTICE ISSUED UNDER SEC.13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT

The Borrower/s:

Mrs. Prema Dhananjaya, Rep. by legal heirs. No. #54/1, Flat No. F 2, 1st Floor, Vastu Kaitasa Apartment, BBMP No 54/3, PID No 51-8-54/3, No 54, Basavangudi, N R Colony, Bangalore-560004.

Mr. T R Dhananjaya, Rep. by legal heirs. No. #54/1, Flat No. F 2, 1st Floor, Vastu Kaitasa Apartment, BBMP No 54/3, PID No 51-8-54/3, No 54, Basavangudi, N R Colony, Bangalore-560004.

Notice under section 13(2) read with Section 13(3) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

You the addressee No. 1 herein have availed the following credit facilities from our Uttarahalli Branch and failed to pay the dues/ instalment/ interest/ operate the accounts satisfactorily and hence, in terms of the RBI guidelines as to the income Recognition and prudential norms, your account is a reverse mortgage loan. As on 06/02/2026 a sum of **Rs. 1,05,91,821,98 (Rs. One crore five Lakhs ninety one thousand eight hundred and twenty one rupees and ninety eight paisy only)** towards the reverse mortage Loan A/c No. 632806750000001 is outstanding.

The particulars of amount due to the Bank from No. 1 of your in respect of the aforesaid account/s are as under:

Facility & Account Number	Outstanding amount as on 31-01-2026	Unapplied interest w.e.f 01/02/2026	Penal interest (Simple)	Cost / Charges incurred by Bank	Total dues as on 06.02.2026 (in Rs.)
632806750000001 TLU25-UNION REVERSE MORTGAGE	Rs. 10591821.98	---------	0.00	0.00	Rs. 10591821.98
TOTAL					Rs. 10591821.98

To secure the repayment of the monies due or the monies that may become due to the Bank, **Mrs. Prema Dhananjaya** has executed documents on **26/12/2012** and created security interest by way of mortgage of immovable property described herein below:

DESCRIPTION OF THE SECURED ASSET/s
SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing flat no F-2, First Floor, BBMP NO 54/3 PID no 51-8-54/3 in the Building known as " Vastu Kailsa" constructed on property no 54 situated at Builtup area 950 Sq Ft UDS 410 Sq ft. **East by:** Shop street, **West by:** Private Property, **North by:** Private Property, **South by:** Private Property.

Therefore you are hereby called upon in terms of Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, to pay a sum of **Rs. 1,05,91,821,98** (Rs. One crore five Lakhs ninety one thousand eight hundred and twenty one rupees and ninety eight paisy only) as on 06/02/2026, together with further interest and charges at the contractual rate as per the terms and conditions of loan documents executed by you and discharge the liabilities in full **within 60 days** from the date of receipt of this notice, failing which, we shall be constrained to enforce the aforesaid securities by exercising any or all of the rights given under the said Act.

As per section 13(13) of the Act, on receipt of this notice you are restrained prevented from disposing of or dealing with the above securities without the consent of the bank.

Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Date: 13.03.2026 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place: Bangalore **Union Bank of India**

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 09/2026 Date: 10.03.2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items: **Tender Closing Time : 10:30 Hrs.**

Sl.	Tender No.	Description in Brief	Qty	Tender Due on
01	33261030	Secondary lateral damper for all coil Fiat Bogie	1372 Nos.	26.03.2026
02	33251264	Manual Uncoupling Device Assembly for CBC Coupler	233 Nos.	30.03.2026
03	33261047	Secondary Spring For Generator Car Side 1 (Outer)	92 Nos.	31.03.2026
04	33267034	Axle box pivot bush to FIAT Drawing No. 7247488001	19019 Nos.	31.03.2026
05	33251258	Knuckle for C.B.C coupler Body	419 Nos.	06.04.2026
06	33261025	Lateral bump stop to FIAT Drawing	7263 Nos.	09.04.2026
07	33261040A	Ball joint roll link for FIAT bogie of LHB	21849 Nos.	09.04.2026
08	33251330A	Secondary Vertical Damper for Non AC LHB	4412 Nos.	14.04.2026
09	33261049	Secondary Spring for Generator Car	171 Nos.	20.04.2026
10	33261033	Yaw Damper for all type for LHB coaches	1628 Nos.	23.04.2026

For Tender No. 46261064 of Notice No. 07/2026, the Due Date for opening of tender changed from 25.03.2026 to 18.03 .2026

For Tender No. 45265003 of Notice No. 07/2026, the Due Date for opening of tender changed from 05.03.2026 to 25.03 .2026

For Tender No. 65255010 of Notice No. 04/2026, the Due Date for opening of tender changed from 18.03.2026 to 06.04.2026. Corrigendum No.2 issued on dt. 09.03.2026 is to be noted.

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

PUB/991/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Principal Chief Materials Manager, Hubballi**

Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank — इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD

DODDA BANASWADI BRANCH

LOCKER BREAK OPEN NOTICE

The locker account mentioned below remains un-operated and dormant for past few years. The heirs has not responded to the notice issued by the bank from time to time and the Bank has not received any claim from the hirer or the legal heirs of the hirer. Under the circumstances we will be compelled to break open the said locker and notice is hereby issued, so that the concerned person / legal heirs shall approach the Branch with relevant documents on or before **24/03/2026**. During business hours for claiming/closing locker facility, failing which, we will be constrained to break open the locker mentioned below on or after **27/03/2026**.

Name and Address of Hirer as registered with the Bank	Locker Number	Locker Key Number
Mr. HEMANTH KUMAR KONDA 504, ASHWINI NILAYA, 3RD CROSS PAPAMMA LAYOUT, RAMAMURTHY NAGAR BANGALORE-560016	**UNIT 102 LOCKER ID 2**	**63**

Date: 12.03.2026 **BISHAKHA SINHA,** Branch Manager
Place: Bangalore Indian Bank, Dodda Banaswadi Branch

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
NOTIFICATION
Bengaluru, 02 March 2026

S.O. 1118 (E) - In exercise of the powers conferred by clause 37(A) of Section 2 of the Railways Act, 1989 (Act no. 24 of 1989) the Ministry of Railway (South Western Railway, Construction Organization, Bengaluru Cantonment) hereby notifies the project, as "Special Railway Project" mentioned in the table below, in the State of Karnataka for providing National Infrastructure for a Public Purpose with effect from date of publication of the notification in the Official Gazette.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project
1	Quadrupling of Track between Whitefield - Bangarpet Station (47 Km)

No.W.271/CN/BNC/2025-26/Land SRP/1727

For details log on: https://egazette.gov.in

Pardeep Puri, Chief Engineer- III, Construction, Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/971/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform ticktes, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.

South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY @SWRAILWAYHQ @sw_railways

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

(Construction Organisation)
E-Tender Notice No. ERS-8G-CN-2026-OT-01
Double Packet System

For and on behalf of The President of India, **The Dy. Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway. Ernakulam,** II Floor, Eastern Entry. Ernakulam Junction, Karshaka Road, Kochi-682 012 invites **e-tenders** for the following work.

Item. No.	Name of the work
1.	Provision of indoor and outdoor Signalling and Telecommunication arrangements at Thrissur station in connection with shifting of S&T accommodation as part of Re-development of Thrissur Railway station in Thiruvananthapuram division of Southern Railway.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Sl.No.	Approximate Cast of Work (₹)	Bid security (₹)	Last Date of e-submission of Tender/Date of Opening of the Tender	Period of Completion (Months)
1.	21,43,01,172.88-	12,21,500.00/-	31/03/2026 15:00 hrs	12 months

Note: 1. Value of tender inclusive of GST as per GST Act and Rules as applicable from time to time for the supply and services by the tenderer.
2. Visit **www.irepa.gov.in** for detailed terms and conditions and corrigendum if any.

Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Construction. Southern Railway, Ernakulam-682 016

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number
1800 102 1878
Or write to us at
customercare@thehindu.co.in

Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU | thehindu businessline. | FRONTLINE | SPORTSTAR | THE HINDU Young World | THE HINDU

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF TAMILNADU LIMITED ANGADI DIVISION

ELCOT Angadi

9th Floor, Sigapi Aachi Building, 18/3, Rukmani Lakshmipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008. www.elcot.tn.gov.in | +91 44 2855 6120 | tenders@elcotangadi.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Tender No. E-ANGADI-ST-CT02-2026-0019

ELCOT Angadi Division invites **"Tender for Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of CCTV System for IGR 3.0 project under Lease cum Service model for a period of 5 years".** For complete details, please visit **www.tntenders.gov.in.** Pre-bid meeting: **27.03.2026, 11 AM.** Last date for submission of e-bids: **30.04.2026, 3 PM.** For queries: **tenders@elcotangadi.in**

DIPR/1760/Tender/2026 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF TAMILNADU LIMITED ANGADI DIVISION

ELCOT Angadi

9th Floor, Sigapi Aachi Building, 18/3, Rukmani Lakshmipathi Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008. www.elcot.tn.gov.in | +91 44 2855 6120 | tenders@elcotangadi.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Tender No. E-ANGADI-ST-IT02-2026-0018

ELCOT Angadi Division invites **"Tender for Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Desktop Computers for e-Office Project".** For complete details, please visit **www.tntenders.gov.in.** Pre-bid meeting: **30.03.2026, 11 AM.** Last date for submission of e-bids: **05.05.2026, 3 PM.** For queries: **tenders@elcotangadi.in**

DIPR/1757/Tender/2026 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT M.I & G.W.D.D. DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR

No.EE/MID/VJP/AE-2,3/4702 & 2702/TND/2025-26/4731 Date:11.03.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department, Division Vijaypur invites work tenders through "E-Procurement" from eligible contractor on item rate Tender for following works as per KTPP Act-2000 and latest amendments.

4702 Major Works :- Total 1 Work**(2nd Call),** Amount put to Tender **Rs.451.77 Lakhs**, **Tender Period for the above work is Eleven(11) Months including monsoon.**

4702 SCP Works :- Total 14 Works/Package Works, Amount put to Tender **Rs.79.20 Lakhs**, **Tender Period for the above work is Three(3) Months including monsoon.**

4702 TSP Works :- Total 9 Works/Package Works, Amount put to Tender **Rs.57.60 Lakhs**, **Tender Period for the above work is Three(3) Months including monsoon.**

2702 M&R Works :- Total 1 Work, Amount put to Tender **Rs.33.89 Lakhs**, **Tender Period for the above work is Six(6) Months including monsoon.**

4702 Consultancy Works :- Total 1 Work, Amount put to Tender **Rs.1.17 Lakhs**, **Tender Period for the above works are One(1) Months including monsoon.**

Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka E-Procurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home under login for Contractors from **12.03.2026.** Tenders may be submitted on electronically in E-Procurement portal up to **17-30 hrs.** on **23.03.2026.** Interested contractors information regarding works may be obtained from this office or e-Procurement helpdesk (Ph.No.080-25501216 & 080-25501227) upto **17-30 hrs.** on **20.03.2026.** Pre-bid meeting will be held on **17.03.2026** for work costing above 1.00 Crore in the office of the Executive Engineer, MI&GWDD Division, Vijaypur. Tenders shall be quoted without adding GST and other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/797/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26 **MI & GWDD Division, Vijayapur**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that our client, **Dr.Akula Venkatram son of late.Mr.Akula Sunder Raj alias A Sunder Raj alias Sunder Raj Akula**, is one of the co-owners of all that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing property bearing Site No.498, BBMP E-Aasthi Khata No.498 with PID No.82-1-498, New Ward No.80-Hoysalanagar, measuring East to West 13.716027 meters or 45 feet and North to South 28.041656 meters or 92 feet, in all measuring 384.618420 Sq.meters or 4140 Sq.feet,, together with building constructed thereon, consisting of Ground measuring 167.2254 Square meters and First floor measuring 167.2254 Square meters, situated at **No.498, Binnamangala, Indiranagar, 1st Stage, CMH Road, Bangalore** and bounded on the: **East by: BDA Site No.499, West by: BDA Site No.497; North by: BDA Site No.467; South by: Road**. It is further informed that the following original documents pertaining to the aforementioned property are lost/misplaced:

1) Original allotment letter issued by CITB.
2) Original Possession Certificate, issued by CITB.
3) Sale Deed dated 28.05.1972 registered a s document No.709/1972-73 in the office of Sub-Registrar Bangalore.
4) Sale Deed dated 29.08.1977 registered as document No.2274/1977-78, in the Office of Sub-Registrar Shivajinagar, Bangalore are missing/lost/misplaced in respect of Schedule property.

The above documents have not been mortgaged/pledged as collateral security and my client not in a position to trace the said original documents. Further, he has also lodged complaint on 11.03.2026, bearing E-Lost Report No. 2103094/2026, before the Bangalore City police about the aforesaid loss. if any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the aforementioned property, they may contact the undersigned in writing within **7 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

K. V. Narendra & Associates,
Advocates and Legal Consultants,
No.557, 2nd Floor, 9th A Main,
Indiranagar, Bangalore - 560038.
Ph: 8660848942 / 9945109229.

BEFORE THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT COMMISSIONER BENGALURU URBAN DISTRICT

LRF(G)CR/23/2025-26

BETWEEN:
M/s. Nambiar Builders Pvt Ltd.
.....Petitioner
AND
Sri Jayachandra And Others
.....Respondents

Notice/ Summons to Respondent No.2 & Proposed Respondent.3

Mr. P. K. Somashekhar Reddy,
S/o. Late. Krishna Reddy M.P.
@Krishnappa. M.P, Aged About 75 Years,
PAN: AENPR6315N, AADHAAR: 694934397975, R/at. No.401, Prakruthi Enclave, The Main, Jeevanbimanagar, HAL 3rd Stage, New Thippasandra, Bangaluru-560075.

M/s. OBTR SOLUTIONS LLP,
A Limited Liability Partnership Rules, 2009, (LLP Identification Number: ACF-3234),
Having its Registered office at Flat No.115, Road/Street: 10th Cross Road, Indiranagar 1st Stage, Bangaluru-560038,
PAN: AAIF08750D

NOTICE

WHEREAS the Petitioner has filed a petition against Respondent No.2 &3 and another Respondent, seeking cancel the fraudulent documents and direct a fresh survey to identify the possession based on the rights, extents and boundaries. You are hereby summoned to appear in this Court/authority in person, or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the case, or who shall be accompanied by some person able to answer all such questions, on the day of 23rd March 2026 at 3.00 O'clock to answer the claim, and you are directed to produce on that day all the documents upon which you intend to relay in support of your defence.

Take notice that, in default of your appearance, on the day before mentioned, the suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this Day of 10 th March, 2026.

By the order of the co
District Commissioner Bengaluru

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU

COMMISSIONERATE FOR WELFARE OF THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED

No.05, LADY WILLINGDON COLLEGE CAMPUS, KAMARAJAR SALAI, CHENNAI-600 005.

Roc.No.1676/A&A/RIGHTS/2026 **TENDER NOTICE** Dated : 12.03.2026

Bids are invited from potential bidders for supply of mobile outreach and therapy unit vehicle for 39 Sub divisional OSC's across Tamil Nadu through the e-procurement portal. The complete details are available on the department website - **www.scd.tn.gov.in** as well as on the tender website-**tntenders.gov.in.**

Bids are to be uploaded through the e-procurement portal at **http://tntenders.gov.in**

Project Director – TN RIGHTS / Commissioner for Welfare the Differently Abled, Chennai-600 005 reserves the right to accept or reject the tenders without assigning any reason.

DIPR/ 1750 /TENDER/2026

Project Director – RIGHTS / Commissioner for Welfare of the Differently Abled

TAMIL NADU INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD TNIDB

3rd floor, CMDA Building Tower-II, 'Thalamuthu-Natarajan Maaligai',
No.1, Gandhi Irwin Road, Egmore, Chennai – 600 008
Phone: 044-28550155/255/355/455
E-mail: soinfra.findpt@tn.gov.in, fininfracell@gmail.com
Website: www.tnidb.tn.gov.in

INVITATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR RECRUITMENT OF PROFESSIONAL

TNIDB is looking for experienced dynamic candidate for positioning in the organization, on contract basis for the post of Data Analyst in TN Financial Data Analytics Unit.

Remuneration would be based on similar roles in other public organizations. For further information regarding the detailed qualifications and experience, roles and responsibilities and application format please visit website **https://tnidb.tn.gov.in** under **'Notifications'.**

All filled applications shall be sent by email to **soinfra.findpt@tn.gov.in, fininfracell@gmail.com** or through post to the above mentioned address in the prescribed format.

Last date for receipt of application is 13.04.2026

DIPR/303/DISPLAY/2026 **Chief Executive Officer, TNIDB**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾಪಾಅ/ಪಂರಾಇಂ/ವಿಯಾ/ವಿವಿಯೋ/ಟೆ.ಪ್ರ/ತಾಸ–2/2025–26/2177 ದಿನಾಂಕ:12.03.2026

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ) (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)

1) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಹೆಸರು ಮತ್ತು ಇಂಟೆಂಡ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:: (1) ವಡಗೇರಾ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ ಉಳ್ಳೆಸೂಗುರ ದಿಂದ ಗುಲಸರಂ ರಸ್ತೆ ಸುಧಾರಣೆ RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT24973 Other (2) ಮುಂಡರಗಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಕ್ಯಾಟೇರ ಮಹಾದೇವಪ್ಪ ಮನೆಯಿಂದ ನಾಗಪ್ಪ ದೊರೆ ಮನೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಸಿ.ಸಿ. ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಚರಂಡಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT25421 Other (3) ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ನಗರದ ವಾರ್ಡ ನಂ. 25ರ ಲಿಂಗಣ್ಣ ಪೂಜಾರಿ ಮನೆಯಿಂದ ಮಜರ ಹುಸೇನ್ ಮನೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಸಿ.ಸಿ. ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಚರಂಡಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ RDPR/2025-6/OW/WORK_INDENT25422 Other (4) ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ದೋರನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಬಿ.ಆರ್. ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ನಗರ ಮಲ್ಲಮ್ಮ ಪೂಜಾರಿ ಮನೆಯಿಂದ ಹನುಮಂತ ಮಾಡ್ನಾಳ್ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ವರೆಗೆ ಸಿ.ಸಿ. ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಚರಂಡಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT24843 Other (5) ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ನಗರದ ವಾರ್ಡ ನಂ. 25ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಂಡು ಶೇಂಡಿಗಿ ಮನೆಯಿಂದ ನಾಗರಾಜ ದುಖಾನ ವರೆಗೆ ಇಂಟರಲಾಕ್ RDPR/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT25423 Other **2) ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ:** 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಯವರ ಮೂಲಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆ, 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 5054 ಯೋಜನೆ.& 2024–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಶಾಸಕರ ಪ್ರದೇಶಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆ. **3) ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ:** ಕನಿಷ್ಠ 2.60 ಮತ್ತು ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ. 50.00 ಲಕ್ಷ 4) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ: 3ನೇ ಹಾಗೂ 4ನೇ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು ದರ್ಜೆ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು **5) ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 13.03.2026 ರಿಂದ 23.03.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ **6) ಟೆಂಡರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ:** ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದಂತೆ (ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕು ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲಾ) **7) ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ:**23.03.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ **8) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ:**25.03.2026 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11:00 ನಂತರ **9) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ವಿಳಾಸ (ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ):** ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ. **10) ಅಂತರಜಾಲ ತಾಣದ ವಿಳಾಸ:** https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

ಸೂಚನೆ :– ಟೆಂಡರರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂದಿಸಿದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು (ರಜಾದಿನಗಳು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ).

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ.
ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರ/589/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.&ಎ/2025–26

THE HINDU GROUP

FAST-FORWARD IS ABOUT TO TAKE THE SPOTLIGHT.

After a year that refused to slow down, comes a night that refuses to overlook it.

Join us, as we gather to honour the ones who pushed Indian sport into a faster gear and earned their place in the light.

Amul
Presents
SPORTSTAR ACES 2026
#IndiaTriumphs
Co-presented by
CASAGRAND building aspirations
In Association with
SRM INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (Deemed to be University u/s 3 of UGC Act, 1956)

Today | Mumbai
6:30 PM onwards

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